



Village Magazine

FEBRUARY 2011

SEASCALE

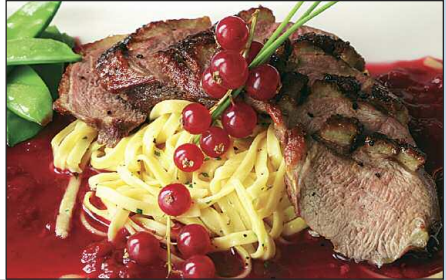
**A SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS DISPLAY
FOR THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON**

Photos © Trevor Preece

Cumbrian Lodge

58 Gosforth Road, Seascale CA20 1JG

Come and enjoy a warm
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and the cool
sophistication of
Cumbrian Lodge



The restaurant has been
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Red Rosette, ranking the
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To ensure that the food
we serve continues to
delight our customers we
use the freshest of
ingredients from the
finest suppliers



Restaurant Opening Hours:

Dinner: Monday to Saturday, 6.30pm until 9.30pm

Reservations: 019467 27309



PARISH NEWS



Happy New Year to all our residents and readers. I am sure all of you that turned up to the Christmas Light Switch On enjoyed it. The entertainment by Marian Finn and colleagues was excellent, and the Christmas Lights were magic – I am sure you all liked the new lights and we thank John Garner and Tony Biggins for all their work in extremely cold weather. The fireworks were superb and our

thanks to Chris Burgess for this extra special spectacular show.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Copeland switched on the lights and they have been in touch to say how much they enjoyed their afternoon.

On 24 November we held a meeting for the people of the village to come and tell the Neighbour Development Officers what needed doing in the village in the 'Together We Can' week; the turnout was excellent.

On 1 December the Parish Council met with representatives from Copeland Borough Council, Citizens' Advice Bureau, Countryside Access Team, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service, Capita Symonds Highways Cumbria, Libraries, Cumbria Police, Shanks Waste Management and a wish list was drawn up. The week when a lot of our wish list requests will be done starts on 14 March. This is a short-term intervention to



Marian Finn (centre), Carol and Lisa Spedding.

If the recycling bins are full do not dump your waste around the bins. You could be done for fly tipping.

put as much right as can be done in a week and hopefully the rest will be put on work programmes.

Please watch out for posters giving you venues and information on events.

It saddens me that we have had so many complaints about selfish dog owners not cleaning up after their dogs. The children's play area particularly has been contaminated. We need to name and shame these people. Most dog owners are very good and use the many bins around the village.

Once again we have to thank David Morgan for looking after our village and beach. He collected 349 bags of rubbish over the last 12 months.

Our thanks to the residents who wrote to the Whitehaven News supporting the Parish Council.

We are having a tough winter weatherwise but we are luckier than most villages in Cumbria as we have everything we need even if we are snowed in: health centre, pharmacist, hardware store, post office, butcher (and once a week – Thursday – Andy's a fishmonger too), general store, three restaurants and bars, take-aways, bank, hairdressers, beauty parlour, ice cream parlour, sandwich shop and baker. If you get cabin fever there's a sports hall to burn off your energy. Don't just use them when you cannot get out of the village or they will not always be here.

Congratulations to the Mawson family on their prestigious award for Family Business of the Year.

We are trying publishing four editions of the magazine this year. Local articles will be very welcome. Proposed publication dates are 7 April, 6 August and 5 November.

The Parish Council intends to hold its Annual Parish Meeting before the normal Parish Council Meeting on 6 April starting at 7pm. Watch notice boards for details.

Eileen Eastwood Chair of the Parish Council

NEW WEBSITE FOR SEASCALE

A new Seascale Parish Council website is in preparation and is expected to be launched in mid-February. Look out for posters on village notice boards and leaflets in shops.

From 15 February go to www.seascale.org.uk

There will be information about the Council itself, with details of councillors and their contact numbers, dates of council meetings for the year, plus the agenda for the next meeting and agreed minutes from previous meetings as they become available. Useful links to other local government websites will be listed. An email address will be provided for residents to contact the council on local issues.

Notice of upcoming local events will form an important part of the content and will be continuously updated. For example, the first event to be covered will be the "Together We Can" week (14 to 18 March), and later in the year on 5 June will be the Community Day to celebrate the resilience and mutual support of the community after the tragic events of 2 June 2010.

Anyone with information on new events or updates on those listed will be welcome to contribute these to the website editor and a dedicated email address will be provided.

We would welcome photographs of Seascale past and present for the home page and for a gallery. Photographs will be attributed unless their photographers wish otherwise.

The website is not intended to provide a debating forum. Residents who have matters to discuss should communicate with the Parish Council directly and are also encouraged to attend Council meetings where there is the opportunity for the public to raise issues.

Most importantly the website is not intended to rival or replace the Seascale Village Magazine, which is an example of excellence and is admired by communities all over Britain.

Helen Pateman

OPEN MIND (WEST LAKES U3A)

Open Mind began in 1997 when a small number of local residents decided that there was a need for another group for the retired section of the community to run alongside other clubs and groups already in existence. It was agreed that this would be an informal group, open to both men and women, which would meet in one or other of the local villages and would offer a variety of activities including stimulating talks, outings, theatre visits etc. The chosen name of the group was 'Open Mind'. Within a short time it was found advantageous for the group to be affiliated to a larger organisation and the University of the Third Age was chosen as having similar aims hence the U3A title. Since then Open Mind has continued to thrive, currently having a membership of approximately 180. Meetings take place all the year round, some based in Seascale and some in Gosforth. The Seascale-based meetings include a History Group which meets in St Cuthbert's Church Hall on the first Wednesday of each month starting at 10.45am, a Singing Group also meeting at St Cuthbert's Church Hall on the second Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm and an Art Appreciation Group which meets at St Joseph's Church Hall at 10.45am on the second Thursday of the month.

Gosforth-based meetings include a main meeting generally with a speaker on a range of topics on the third Thursday of each month starting at 10.45am in the Public Hall, a Discovery Group held in St Mary's Church Room at 10.45am on the 4th Wednesday of each month as well as house-based Discussion, Reading and Mah Jong groups and there is a Bird-Watching Group.

The annual membership fee is £5 having remained unchanged since OM's beginning and there is an additional small entrance charge for most meetings to cover the cost of room hire and speaker fees where applicable, refreshments etc. Non-members are welcome to attend one of the larger meetings as a visitor for one or two sessions before deciding whether to join. For further details contact George Taylor, Membership Secretary, telephone number 019467 28713 or see the Open Mind Newsletter.

SEASCALE COMMUNITY DAY

The village's Community Day event is to be held on Sunday 5 June 2011 and plans are moving apace for a full day of activities.

A comprehensive article and detailed programme will be included in the May edition of the Village Magazine, but for now, please make a note in your diary to keep this day free.

Thankyou to the representatives of the village's clubs, groups, societies, etc who attended the meeting on 9 December 2010 for your positive input and suggestions. If you haven't yet returned your Registration Form, please do so as soon as possible. A full programme for the day will be inserted in the next magazine.

Clive Willoughby, Chairman, Seascale Community Day Committee

Contact details: phone: 019467 21026 or 07741 007495. email: seascalepc@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Councillors

Eileen Eastwood	28653
Elaine Dickinson	27288
Rodney Kimber	28723
Ken Mawson	28278
John McElroy	28443
David Moore	27674
Helen Pateman	28131
Steve Pritt	07792 109658
Phil Taylor	28020
Clive Willoughby	07741 007495
Andrew Woollass	28218

Clerk

Judith Kirkham	28449
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Copeland District Councillors

Eileen Eastwood	28653
David Moore	27674

County Councillor

Sue Brown	01229 774666
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Other Useful Numbers

Cumbria Highways Hotline	0845 609 6609
Copeland Direct	0845 054 8600

A BRAND NEW CAFE

As part of our ongoing improvements to the railway a brand new cafe is being constructed on Platform 1 at Ravenglass.

Relax in the comfort of a more spacious purpose built cafe. Meet friends, watch the trains and enjoy freshly prepared food from our new menu including many homemade delights.

Jan and her team look forward to welcoming you ...

Scheduled to open Easter 2011.

For more news of forthcoming events, please see our website:

www.ravenglass-railway.co.uk
or phone 01229 717171

FAMILY FUN WEEKEND

to celebrate our 50th anniversary.
Saturday - Monday 30th April - 2nd May

Join in the fun and celebrations on the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway:

Model railway exhibition, Visiting steam engines, Live music, Stu-di-do magic show (Sun & Mon), World Owl Trust (Sat), competitions, Circus skills drop in sessions, fairground organ the "Magic Flute", Morris dancing by "Two Headed Sheep".

Dress in 1960's gear if you like – judging on the 2.30 train, Monday 2nd May for a chance to win a champagne journey for you and your friends!



50 YEARS OLD

1961 – 2011

Saved from the scrap merchants at an auction in 1960, 'La'al Ratty' re-opened in spring 1961 to once again carry passengers. We still offer a fantastic day out: wildlife, walks, country pubs, waterfalls, heritage sites, villages, a watermill and spectacular scenery!

A full day out

Seven miles of travel from the coast to the mountains. Travel as many times as you want on the day you purchase your Full Line return ticket.

La'al Ratty Gift Vouchers *

The perfect gift for any occasion! Available from our ticket offices at either end of the line.

* Gift Vouchers cannot be used on Special Event days

SAVE ON 5 FULL DAYS OF TRAVEL

RATTY ROVER PASS

Visit - Explore - Discover

Your Ratty Rover Pass entitles you to 5 whole days of unlimited travel on the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway. Days can be spread throughout the season to suit your own needs.

Valid until 2nd January 2012*

- Adult Ratty Rover Pass - £36
- Child Ratty Rover Pass - £18 (5–15 years)
- Family Ratty Rover Pass - £95 (2 adults & 2 children)

* excludes Special Event days

WHITEHAVEN , EGREMONT & DISTRICT CREDIT UNION

The Credit union is a community based, non profit making, savings and borrowings organisation that is owned, run and controlled by its members, all of whom are volunteers. It's a place where you will be welcomed as a saver and helped as a borrower, where becoming a member is about caring and sharing and restoring a sense of community spirit.

It is hoped to establish a Seascale collection point for our local Credit Union. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to give two hours on a Monday morning to help man this project. It is proposed that the collection point would be open between 9.30am and 10.30am at the Methodist Church hall, with some time allowed to set up the desk and bank the takings afterwards. The times and location are subject to confirmation.

If we can establish a pool of several volunteers it would allow flexibility and not too heavy a commitment as only two people are needed at the desk each session. Please contact Pam Mullineaux on 019467 28583 for more details.

Further information on how the Credit Union can help you is available by contacting either the Whitehaven office, 24 James Street, Whitehaven, 01946 66755 or the Egremont office at the De Lucy Centre, 15-17 Market Place, Egremont, 01946 828104.

END OF AN ERA

Calder Girls School (1885-1967)

Former pupils of Calder House School for Girls will gather for the last time for their final school reunion on Saturday 21 May, 2011.

It brings to a close an important part of Seascale's history with the "Old Girls" meeting to reminisce together their time spent as pupils, many becoming life-long friends.

Many pupils have gone on to great things, some entering politics, successful writers and businesswomen.

With depleting numbers and many now too infirm to travel, the decision was made to make this their final reunion.

Far from being a sad occasion this year will be a celebration to the school that forged their formulative years and future success.

For further information may contact organiser
Jill Marsham on 019467 26276.



2ND SEASCALE METHODIST BROWNIES

I hope you have all had a nice Christmas and pleasant new year despite the harsh weather. I'm here again with the Brownie update. Unfortunately we didn't get to perform our Brownie Christmas delight at Inzivar or Calderthwaite. We apologise for this, but we have re-organised this trip and hope to get there in the New Year. We have another fun-filled schedule in front of us which includes cooking, crafts and dressing up. We also have our annual pack holiday planned which will be in May. This is where we leaders plan a packed weekend and take the girls away for two nights; various activities are planned like crafts, outdoor games and sleepless nights. What are we leaders thinking? Seeing as last year was our centenary celebrations it means that this year is going to be slightly quiet in comparison. This doesn't mean that our weekly meetings still won't be hectic. We are currently working on the "Tall Ships" badge, which was in correspondence to the Tall Ships that came to Whitehaven. We are working through the challenges and have already ticked off a couple of things. The pirate party that we held in November was a part of the badge. Just a quick thank you to Lynn, Jennifer, Joan, Maggie, Jane and Sarah for your continuous support with Brownies. Happy New Year.

Sarah Huddleston (2nd Seascale Methodist Brownies)

BRATHAY TRUST FUNDRAISING EVENT

My name is Penny Moreton and I work every week in the Bakehouse in Seascale. When I am not cooking our hot pies and making our scrummy fillings I am a very keen ultra marathon runner. On 13 May until 22 May I shall be running 10 marathons in 10 days around Lake Windermere (a total of 262 miles!) to raise £2500 for the Brathay Trust. This charitable organisation is based at Brathay near Windermere where it provides residential courses for young people and adults who need to rebuild their lives and gain confidence to rejoin their communities after suffering previous traumas and difficulties.

In April I am having a fundraising event at the Calder House Hotel in Seascale. The fantastic John Halligan alias 'Elvis Presley' will be performing and there will also be a disco. Tickets are available for £8 for the 2 April, doors opening at 7.30pm for 8.00pm, from the Calder House Hotel, The Banks, Seascale, 019467 28538.

I look forward to meeting you on the night.
It's going to be great

Thank you,

Penny Moreton

www.justgiving.com/Penny-Moreton10in10

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.

SEASCALE SPORTS HALL

Seascale Sports Hall is owned by the Parish Council and run by a volunteer committee. We have had quite a successful year with more groups taking advantage of the facilities.

Our policy is to charge users just enough to cover the costs of running the hall which includes covering water rates, electricity, cleaning, repair and maintenance and to keep a little money in reserve for unexpected problems. We also need to save money for new equipment.

This last year we have had the hall freshly decorated and new doors installed in the main entrance and emergency exit to comply with safety standards. We next intend to have the main sports floor professionally cleaned.

The hall continues to be used regularly by various groups including badminton, football, table tennis, keep fit, soft play and archery.

We are proud to have our own Olympic hopeful practising in our hall!

The hall is also very popular for children's parties and we have a music licence for anyone wanting to play music!

We are finding that people who in the past have enjoyed having the bouncy castle and soft play for their young children's parties are now coming back to book football parties as their children are getting older!

Hopefully we can maintain the same charges again this year as we have for the last three years. For details of availability and charges please contact:

Jen McClemens 019467 28201 or any of the committee members listed below.

Our grateful thanks go to Sue Borwick for auditing our books every year.

Bernard Dickinson	27288
Pat Kirkham	28929
Linda Platt	27335
Jean Caulfield	28435
Jen Caulfield	21954
Erica O'Donnell	29665
John McElroy	28443

Mawsons
of Bailey Ground



Mawsons Ice Cream Parlour

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Special
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ice cream
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SELLER!

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baileygroundhotel.co.uk



Ice Cream Parlour
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Now serving hot food, jacket potatoes, homemade
soup and daily specials.
Freshly ground coffee, homemade cakes and scones.
Seasonal ice creams available all year round.
Over 90 varieties to date!
Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday 10am-5pm.
Closed Mondays in winter.

Milk deliveries are made throughout Seascale – phone 019467 28278 for yours

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of Bailey Ground

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of Bailey Ground

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of Bailey Ground

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of Bailey Ground

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of Bailey Ground



What's on at the

The Screes Inn

Nether Wasdale

invites

all you ladies

to join us for our

LADIES LUNCH CLUB

Every 2nd Wednesday of the
month

3 modest size courses
plus tea or coffee & mints

£9.95

Followed by a short talk from a guest
speaker

Booking is essential

Please call for more details 019467 26262



New Chef

Sunday Lunch

served 12 – 2pm
£11.95
for 3 courses

Live Music

Sunday 6 February and Sunday 6 March
A group of talented musicians from various bands –
come and join us for an afternoon of acoustic. Play
an instrument? Bring it along and join in from 3pm

019467 26262

SCREES INN



New Menu

The Screes Inn

Nether Wasdale

Saturday

12th February

COCKTAILS &
CANAPES

DRESS CODE - SMART OR BLACKTIE

3 course Valentine Menu served in
our restaurant with a bottle of house
wine and box of chocolates

£25.00 per person

6pm - 8.30pm

BOOKING ADVISABLE

Live Music in the Bar

from 9pm

019467 26262

Quiz Night every Sunday from 8pm

Your chance to win a gallon of ale

Free entry to the quiz

plus open the box ~ pick the right key and win a large cash prize

£1 a ticket

www.thescrees.co.uk

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EVENTS CALENDAR in and around Seascale

Find updates at www.seascalevillage.org.uk from 15 February

- Until 1 March.** Cumbrian Textiles Art Exhibition. Lowes Court Gallery, Egremont. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm. Sat 10am-4pm.
- 9 February – Wednesday.** Talk: 'Natterjack Toads in Cumbria'. 7:30pm, Seascale Methodist Church Hall. See page 17
- 10 February – Thursday.** Open Mind Art Appreciation Group meeting "Two Views of Venice". 10:45am St Joseph's Church Hall, Seascale. £2.00 for non-members.
- 12, 13, 19-27 February.** La'al Ratty running on these dates.
- 17 February – Thursday.** Open Mind meeting "Germany: Not just Beer and Sausages" by Anthony Payne. 10:15am Gosforth Public Hall. £2.50 for non-members.
- 19 February – Saturday.** Easy train ride to Port and Cheese day at Prince of Wales, Foxfield. 01229 716238.
- March.** La'al Ratty running each weekend.
- 2 March – Wednesday.** Open Mind History Group meeting "Whaling from Whitehaven" by Dr Rob David. 11am St Cuthbert's Hall, Seascale. £2.50 for non-members.
- 3 March – Thursday.** Open Mind Art Appreciation Group meeting "The Art of Russia" by Mike Fossey. 10:00am & 12:30am St Joseph's Church Hall, Seascale. £2.00 for non-members.
- 5 March – 19 April.** Copeland Schools Art Exhibition. Lowes Court Gallery, Egremont. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm. Sat 10am-4pm.
- 9 March – Wednesday.** Talk: 'The Plight of the Bumble Bee'. 7:30pm, Gosforth Methodist Room. See page 17
- 10 March – Thursday.** Open Mind Art Appreciation Group meeting "The Art of Russia" by Mike Fossey. 10:00am & 12:30am St Joseph's Church Hall, Seascale. £2.00 for non-members.
- 10-13 March – Thursday to Sunday.** Easy train ride to Stout, Porter, Mild and Strong Ale days at Prince of Wales, Foxfield. 01229 716238.
- 14-18 March – Monday to Friday.** Together We Can Week. Venue to be announced. Please check Seascale website for details.
- 17 March – Thursday.** Open Mind meeting "Pub Signs and Cumbrian Inns" by Diana Stewart. 10:15am Gosforth Public Hall. £2.50 for non-members.
- 19 March – Saturday.** Car Wash for the Fire Fighters Charity. Fire Station from 9am. See page 14
- 23 March – Wednesday.** Open Mind Discovery Group meeting "Robin Rigg Wind Farm" by a speaker from E.ON. 10:15am St Mary's Rooms, Gosforth. £2.50 for non-members.
- 2 April – 30 October.** La'al Ratty running daily service.
- 2 April – Saturday.** Calder House Hotel: Elvis Tribute Show and Disco with John Halligan. In aid of Brathay Hall Charity for underprivileged children. See page 8
- 3 April – Sunday.** Mothers' Day Sunday Carvery. Calder House Hotel. See page ??
- 6 April – Wednesday.** Open Mind History Group meeting "Calder Abbey" by Lois Fulker. 11:00am St Cuthbert's Hall, Seascale. £2.50 for non-members.
- 6 April – Wednesday.** West Coast Support Group's AGM will be held, followed by a presentation on sea birds. See page 17
- 14 April – Thursday.** Open Mind Art Appreciation Group meeting "Celebrating the Landscape". 10:45am St Joseph's Church Hall, Seascale. £2.00 for non-members.
- 21 April – Thursday.** Open Mind meeting "What's in a Name – Botanic Names and Meanings" by Harry Fancy. 10:15am Gosforth Public Hall. £2.50 for non-members.

If you have dates for events after 7 May that would be of interest to Seascale folk please email to news@epic-gb.com for publication in our next magazine.

- 22-25 April – Easter.** Travel on La'al Ratty and enter their competitions to win an Easter Bunny and Guess the weight of the giant egg!
- 24 April – Sunday.** Easter Sunday lunchtime Carvery. Calder House Hotel. See page 28
- 27 April – Wednesday.** Open Mind Discovery Group meeting "Bubbly Science" by Steve Wilson. 10:15am St Mary's Rooms, Gosforth. £2.50 for non-members.
- 29 April – Friday.** Travel on La'al Ratty and celebrate with their own "Royal Wedding Cake"!
- 29 April – Friday.** Royal Wedding Day at Calder House Hotel. Open 10am 'til late. See the spectacle on their big screen. See page 28
- 30 April – 2 May – Saturday-Monday.** Family Celebration to mark the 50th anniversary of La'al Ratty. Model railway exhibition, visiting steam engines, Circus Skills workshops, Stu-di-doo magic show (Sat & Sun), World Owl Trust (Saturday), live music and competitions. Dress in 1960s clothes on the 2.30pm train on 2 May for chance to win a champagne journey for winner and friends. See page 44
- 12 May – Thursday.** Open Mind Art Appreciation Group meeting "The Japanese Influence – Hokusai 'The Wave'". 10:45am St Joseph's Church Hall, Seascale. £2.00 for non-members.
- 13-15 May – Friday-Sunday.** The Strands Inn Beer Festival, Nether Wasdale.
- 2 June – Thursday.** Elkie Brooks live at Forum 28, Barrow-in-Furness. 01229 820000.
- 5 June – Sunday.** Community Day. More details will be in the May edition. See page 5
- 9 June – Thursday.** Open Mind Art Appreciation Group meeting "Art Nouveau". 10:45am St Joseph's Church Hall, Seascale. £2.00 for non-members.
- 9-12 June – Thursday-Sunday.** Boot Beer Festival. Brook House, Boot Inn and Woolpack.
- 17-19 June – Friday to Sunday.** Easy train ride to Brewer's Weekend at Prince of Wales, Foxfield. 01229 716238.
- 26 June – Sunday.** No Fixed Abode (Una and Tony) playing live at Gosforth Hall Inn. Do not miss. Sensational duo .
- 17-19 June – Friday to Sunday.** Easy train ride to Brewer's Weekend at Prince of Wales, Foxfield. 01229 716238.
- 8-10 July – Friday to Sunday.** Easy train ride to Cider and Perry weekend at Prince of Wales, Foxfield. 01229 716238.
- 14 July – Thursday.** Open Mind Art Appreciation Group meeting "Scottish Art". 10:45am St Joseph's Church Hall, Seascale. £2.00 for non-members.
- 23 July – Saturday.** Steam train excursion from Carlisle to Manchester via Whitehaven/Seascale and return to Carlisle via Settle. www.hf-railtours.co.uk See page 20
- 20 August – Saturday.** Gosforth Show.
- 29 August – Monday.** Black Combe Country Fair, Bootle. Sports & pet show. Foxhound, Beagle, Terrier, Lurcher Classes. www.blackcombecountryfair.co.uk
- 16-18 September – Friday to Sunday.** Easy train ride to Foreign Beer Style Weekend at Prince of Wales, Foxfield. 01229 716238.
- 7-9 October – Friday to Sunday.** Broughton Festival of Beer.

CAR WASH: 19 MARCH

Seascale fire fighters are raising funds for The Fire Fighters Charity by holding a Car Wash on Saturday 19 March at the fire station from 09:00.

The Fire Fighters Charity is a national charity that helps to rehabilitate all injured fire fighters, to allow them to return to work or lead a normal life if they can no longer work due to their injuries. It also supports the families of any fire fighters who have died whilst in service.

Fire fighters throughout the country turn out to help anyone in distress and to all manner of incidents. Please try to support this worthy cause by bringing your dirty car along for a 'makeover' and make a donation to our funds. The fire station will be open for refreshments while you wait for your car to be cleaned. You can also look over the fire engine and see what equipment is carried and how it is used.

We will turn out when you need help.

Please turn out and help us.

Woolpack Inn

Boot, Eskdale

new bar new chef new loos



After extensive refurbishment, the old Inn is re-open for business, but this time with a difference.

Come and see, try us out and let us know your thoughts.

b&b from £30 pppn
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Plenty of Real Ales
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SEASCALE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

We had a very enjoyable festive season which included our 50th Christmas Dance. Our picture shows our Secretary, Brenda Rhodes and Chairman, Jimmy Young cutting the celebration cake which was made by one of our members. We had visitors from Barrow, Cockermouth, Silecroft and Whitehaven and a good time was had by all.

One of the Silecroft members, Ginger Higham, devised a dance especially for our 50th anniversary and named it "Brenda's Bicycle" after our Hon. Sec. who can be seen cycling regularly round the area. To show our appreciation we demonstrated the dance during the supper interval and to add to the fun the dancers all donned cycle helmets.

We have gained a couple of new members during the latter part of the year but our membership is still low and if there's anyone who would like to join us they will be very welcome. You don't need a partner or any previous experience, just a willingness to learn and a desire for enjoyment.



Contacts: Brenda Rhodes: 28268. Jimmy Young: 28155. David McCrindle: 24006





West Coast Support Group

SPRING INDOOR MEETINGS 2011

9 February. 7.30pm at Seascale Methodist Church Hall
“Natterjack Toads in Cumbria”

Following his successful walk last summer Bill Shaw will return to give us an illustrated talk.

9 March. 7.30pm at Gosforth Methodist Room
“The Plight of the Bumble Bee”

An illustrated talk by Nigel Gilligan on our concern for this vital species.

6 April. Seascale 7.30pm at Methodist Church Hall

The Group’s AGM will be held, followed by a fascinating presentation on sea birds by Robin Sellers.

SUMMER 2011 WALKS – the dates to be finalised
May St Bees Head

June ‘High Leys’ Meadow, Kirkland

July our annual visit to Clintz Quarry

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

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

Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Head Office: Plumgarths, Crook Road, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 8LX
Telephone 01539 816300

E: mail@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk

W: www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk

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to your specification

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perennials

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discuss your requirements?

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Or call in at
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www.perfectly-planted.co.uk

WILDLIFE

Twelve months ago I wrote an article about the great concern regarding the disappearing bee population, which was happening world-wide. Colonies were vanishing without trace at an alarming rate. Scientists have now found the cause to be a virus carried by a minute mite, which was living on the bees. A wildlife programme recently showed how the bees had learned how to counteract this danger by grooming each other to get rid of these mites. How could something so small, lots of these mites could live on a single bee, threaten to wipe out a whole species? Scientists have now found a way of using genetic engineering to make these mites eventually breed themselves out.

Another little creature responsible for the widespread of disease is a midge. Blue tongue, which is deadly to cattle and sheep, started in Africa and quickly spread across Europe into the South of England. This disease causes a great deal of suffering and in a lot of cases death. How can a bite from an insect the size of a pin head infect a full grown cow?

Then there is the mosquito that spreads the deadly malaria across large parts of the world. You would hope that in the not too distant future scientists will find a way to make these insects breed themselves out also.

Have you noticed all the molehills that have appeared recently along the roadside verges during the frosty spells. Moles live on earthworms so it is vital for them to get rid of the excess soil as they tunnel to find them. If the fields are frozen rock hard they face starvation. How do the moles know the verges get sprayed with salt off the roads which prevents them from freezing hard?

Ken Mawson



THE CHRISTMAS WEIGHT GAIN

easy steps for reversing it

As a personal trainer and nutritional advisor I speak to a large number of people all with different reasons for and problems with weight gain and management.

Following the festive period, when all the New Year's resolutions have been made, more and more people come to me asking for a miracle answer to how they can shift the extra pounds gained over Christmas.

If I'm honest there is no miracle cure to lose a stone of body fat overnight; however, there are a few simple changes that can be made to your daily lifestyle that can kick start the weight loss process.

Here are five of my top tips

Don't starve yourself – Suddenly starving the body and eating nothing but Ryvitas and celery will not help, believe me! If you starve the body it will flip a switch in the brain telling the body to hold on to as much body fat as possible in preparation for a famine, making weight loss even harder. If you see the scales going down all your body will be shedding is excess water not body fat.

Eat little and often – The old idea of eating three square meals a day, believe it or not, is not the most effective for accelerating the rate at which the body burns calories. Breaking these three meals down into five or six smaller ones will keep the body burning calories at a faster rate and maintain a steady blood sugar level making you feel more energetic and lively.

Don't drink coffee – Drinking Coffee or caffeinated drinks will dehydrate the body. If the body is dehydrated you won't lose weight! If you really can't cut down the coffee, for every cup you have drink two glasses of water to help combat the effects of dehydration.

Introduce fish and nuts – Ideally your daily calorie intake should be made up of 10% – 30% fats. Cutting out fatty cuts of red meat and sugary snacks and replacing them with the good unsaturated fats from nuts and fish will help the

body use the stored body fat for energy resulting in quicker weight loss.

Start to pick up your exercise – Bringing in 20 minutes of brisk walking or jogging a day can really make a difference to kick starting weight loss when carried out consistently 3 – 5 times a week.

If you feel you need further guidance and advice on diet or exercise please do not hesitate to ask. Also if you are looking to Kick Start your weight loss quicker whilst developing a well-toned and lean physique keep an eye out for my high calorie burning Kettlebell Class starting soon. For further free nutritional and exercise advice sign up to my weekly newsletter at www.smartshaperfitness.co.uk

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Graham Lawson, BSc (Hons)
Smartshaper Fitness

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ARNSIDE RAIL VIADUCT 16-WEEK REVAMP

Buses to replace trains south of Barrow

The Kent Viaduct at Arnside is to be completely re-decked. Like the Leven Viaduct project 5 years ago, this will safeguard the line and train capacity for the future and allow restoration of 60mph running. Bus replacement for rail services will be for 16 weeks, the blockade running from 23:45 on Saturday 26 March to 04:10 on Monday 18 July.

For the first three weeks from 27 March to 17 April, Network Rail is taking the opportunity to repair the Dalton end of Lindal Tunnel, replace the Clare House footbridge at Grange and clean gutters/awnings/replace the broken glazing at Ulverston. There will therefore be no trains between Barrow and Grange during that period.

"Express" buses will serve Barrow, Ulverston and Grange, running to Oxenholme to pick up the main line connection there. "Slow" buses will run all stations. It is felt by the train operating companies that Oxenholme will be a more efficient main line interchange than Lancaster with journey times from Barrow via Grange of around 75 minutes; on the downside the parallel slow all-stations bus journey will result in Barrow to Carnforth travelling times of 2 hours.

For the remaining 13 weeks from 18 April, trains will serve stations between Barrow and Grange, with bus connections for Oxenholme and Arnside.

When the work on Arnside Viaduct was first agreed, the Train Operating Companies considered running a shuttle rail service covering Arnside/Silverdale/Carnforth/Lancaster, using the down line only and leaving the up line for contractor's use. This was vetoed because Network Rail (NR) required total possession of the track and of Arnside station. At the time NR intended to use for its working base an area on the foreshore with difficult access for deliveries; total possession made good sense. When NR learned that this area was subject to tidal flooding they decided to use the old coal yard instead, giving much easier access for deliveries and also for moving materials to the viaduct. The Furness Line Action Group (FLAG) approached NR and asked if they would review their access requirements.

The good news is that NR and their contractors

will be able to release some rail access capacity. With suggestions from FLAG, a limited Transpennine Express rail shuttle service is expected to run from Arnside to Lancaster. This will use the northbound line between Carnforth and Arnside, and is subject to confirmation.

With thanks to FLAG and Copeland Rail Users' Group for this information.

CUMBRIAN COAST EXPLORER

On Saturday 23 July 2011, there will be a luxury steam-hauled excursion from Carlisle, around the Cumbrian Coast to Manchester, and returning via the Settle to Carlisle line. There will be about three hours to spend, in cosmopolitan Manchester. It will depart from Carlisle in the morning, stopping to pick up passengers at Dalston, Wigton, Aspatria, Maryport, Workington and Whitehaven. If we have enough local support, an additional stop could be made at Seascale, but to take breakfast you would need to join the train at Whitehaven.

Pullman Style Dining, featuring the Best of British menu. £199 per person.

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Standard. £89 per adult and £75 for each child.

A licensed buffet car will be available for the purchase of hot and cold drinks and snacks.

Return travel by coach from Carlisle to your departure station will be available at extra cost and must be booked in advance.

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Perfectly Planted is a family run floristry and landscape/maintenance business tucked away at 18 Whitecroft Gosforth (the old butcher's shop).

Perfectly Planted was established almost 3 years ago, when Chris decided that it was time for a change of direction on the work front. Previously Chris had worked for Hewden Plant Hire as a depot manager at their Barrow branch. His decision to establish a gardening and landscaping business came from a love of gardening and a desire to spend more time outdoors. A keen plantsman, Chris spends much time propagating his own plant stock and it soon became apparent that an outlet was needed to sell our stock.

It was then we took the decision to open the florist shop as this allowed Hilary to train as a florist and Chris to have an outlet for his plants..

The business has gone from strength to strength and we hope it will continue to do so.

Anyone who has visited the garden at Hall Senna will know that Chris has indeed an eye for gardening and plants. The garden will once again be open for charity on Sunday 31 July and we will be pleased to see you then. Hilary our florist takes great pride in her work and is always pleased to advise customers. We cater for weddings large and small and decorate churches and reception venues as well as preparing the bride's flowers to a standard

a bride would expect for her special day. Each wedding is different, so Hilary's aim is to provide each bride with flowers she will always remember.

Flowers are a unique gift and Hilary will be pleased to provide something special for you to give whatever the occasion. Why not give us a try for Valentine's Day?

We also provide landscaping and maintenance services. Does your garden need a new look or simply a seasonal prune and tidy up? Chris will gladly visit you and discuss your requirements.

Is your garden getting too much for you but you don't want to move? We can provide a regular grass cutting, weeding and strimming service, giving you peace of mind and allowing you to remain in your own home.

We also offer the services of a tree surgeon who can prune large trees to your requirements eliminating the need to fell mature trees.

Starting a new project which is too big to tackle by hand but too small for a digger? Our small 1.8 digger is designed to fit into tight corners and enter gardens through limited access. Ring for a price of digger and operator. (For hire with operator only.)

Please feel free to ring Hilary or Chris on 019467 25473 to discuss your requirements.



THE MANX ELECTRIC TIME MACHINE



The Isle of Man is (albeit transiently!) a visible part of our lives for those of us living on Seascale's coastline. Some of us visit when the Balmoral and Steam Packet Company run crossings from Whitehaven. Alas the Steam Packet Company didn't run any in 2010. A sad loss, like the Lady of Mann ferry, sold to warmer climes in Greece. But the IoM is a wonderful excursion – even if only for a day trip – and its railways are a treasure, one of which being the Manx Electric Railway, the subject of a new book by author Robert Hendry, who here provides a little taste of the railway's history.

I am sure that you will have visited a museum and have been fascinated by the items on display, and have felt how good it is that they have survived. Perhaps you have regrets that the museum experience is only a shadow of what it must have been like long ago. We can fly in a jumbo jet, but we are never going to pilot a

Sopwith Camel from the Great War. We can get into our car with its hi-fi system, outside temperature gauge and ABS, but other than for a fortunate handful of us, travelling in a car that was built before 1914 is never going to happen. We have at best a vicarious experience of life as it was a century ago.



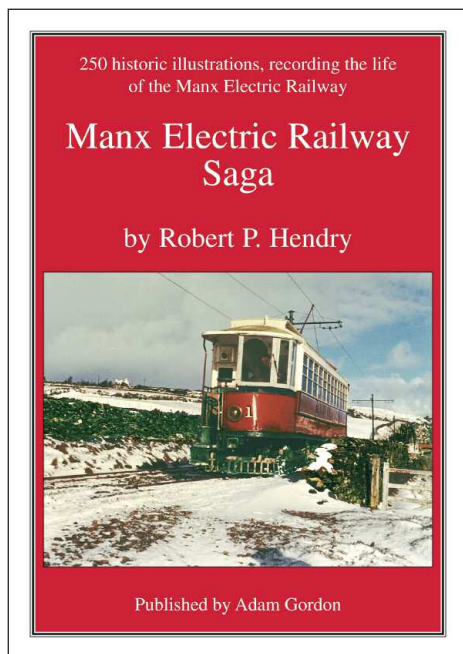
John Matthews, senior motorman and instructor, keeps a careful watch as he enters an unusually crowded Laxey station on 31 May 1979 during a Cavalcade. Car 27 was still in splendid condition, and had been built as a trailer in 1898, numbered 43.

One evening I stood with my wife's parents near Seascale station. It had been a glorious August day, and the sun shone, even in Cumbria. As we looked across the Irish Sea, we could see the Isle of Man against the sunset. It is a place I know well as I can trace my Manx ancestry back for more than 600 years. For a little over 100 of those years, the Island has been the home of a remarkable electric railway. The first section opened in 1893, more than a decade before London had electric trams, and by 1899 it was complete. It was a pioneer electric interurban railway, and people came from far and wide to study this cutting edge technology. Having seen how it was done, they went off and did better. By 1903 it was archaic, and required a new electricity supply system, and the power bogies that the passenger cars ran on were a joke compared with modern technology. A whole set of new power trucks came in 1903. By 1906 the line had been fully modernised, and a century later was still the same as it had been in 1906.

You can't fly in a Sopwith Camel or drive around in an early 1900s motor car, but if you make the trip to the Island that you can see on the skyline from the front at Seascale, a time machine awaits you. To find it you must go to the north end of the Promenade in Douglas. It is called the Manx Electric Railway. Perhaps after taking a trip on a horse tram along the promenade, you can board an electric car that may have been built in 1893, and modernised in 1903, or one of the "new" cars that arrived as recently as 1906. The brass-topped controllers that the motormen use are all over 100 years old, though some had their 1900s electric circuits updated to 1906 technology.

You travel on the original route, and as you clatter through the Manx countryside with views of the sea coast, the valleys, glens and even cross over a deep ravine on an 1899 lattice girder viaduct, you experience what our Victorian and Edwardian ancestors knew. My Mother was born in Ramsey in 1906, and her parents told her of the day the Electric Cars reached the outskirts of the town back in 1898, as the 1899 bridge had not then been finished.

If you look from Seascale, you can see the summit of Snaefell. At 2036 feet, it is the only mountain in the Isle of Man, and the view from the top is



Robert's book seems quite expensive at £38.80, but that's due entirely to it being full-colour, with over 250 photographs, and the 144 pages are hardbound. It's available from Adam Gordon (the publisher) at Kintradwell Farmhouse, Brora, Sutherland KW9 6LU. If you would like to see a copy, contact Trevor (responsible for its production) on 28449.

stupendous, but it is hard work getting there on foot! In 1895 there were no mountain railways in operation anywhere in the British Isles, but the men who had created the first section of the coastal line from Douglas to Laxey decided they would not merely build a mountain railway but build an electric mountain railway. They opened it the same year, and provided six tramcars. One was burnt out in 1970, but the other five still survive.

Until 1979, they made the journey using their original electric motors of 1895, but the motors have now been replaced by "new" 50 year old ones. Even so, when you board a Snaefell car at Laxey, you are reliving the experience that the subjects of Queen Victoria had.

The reason this time capsule survived was that two wars, road competition and the Great Depression ensured that the Manx Electric



On the far right, the Snafell line can be seen snaking its way up the valley with the river below it. On the other side of the valley, between the river and the front of No.4 is the narrow road that leads from Agneish village in the distance to the Snafell Mines.

Railway Company did not have the money to do any more modernisation after 1906. Because of a succession of outstanding managers, this archaic museum piece survived into the 1950s, but the company was almost bankrupt. A Manx judge and a Manx politician decided it was so special that it had to live on. They convinced the Manx government of this, against heavy opposition, and a government run board was set up in 1957. The MER survives largely as it was built as a tourist amenity and a historical experience because of those two far sighted individuals.

By luck, my grandmother had known the Judge, Deemster Sir Percy Cowley, when they were both children, and my mother had known the politician, Sir Charles Kerruish, President of the Manx Parliament, when he was a small boy in short trousers. She was distantly related to the manager of the MER from 1936 to 1952 and was friends with the daughter of the man who ran the line from 1907 to 1936. It gave our family a unique 'insider' connection with the MER, which endured for over 70 years. That was how I came to produce the book on the line, "Manx Electric Railway Saga", just published.

The MER story means a great deal to me, and "Saga" is a fitting word for survival against all the odds, but because it has survived, it means that you can relive the same sensation as your forbears had 100 years ago. I married quite late in life and have three small daughters. With luck, their children will be able to ride on the MER in 100 years time and say "This is what it was like 200 years ago." It is a very special experience. Go and see it for yourself, when the opportunity arises.

Robert Hendry

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

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

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SUCCESS FOR COLLECTION OF BIKES AND TOOLS FOR HAVERIGG PRISON AND TOOLS FOR SELF-RELIANCE



The coffee morning and collection of bikes and tools for Haverigg Prison and tools for Self-Reliance event on Saturday 6 November, part of Seascale Methodist Church's Eco-Congregation work, was very successful and enjoyable. Somewhere between 70 and 80 bikes, with enough miscellaneous parts to make another ten, plus a huge quantity of unwanted tools were donated for restoration and re-use.

I'd like to thank all from Seascale and beyond who gave any items, and to those from the church who helped by serving coffee, dealing with the bikes and tools as they arrived and loading the transport.

Special thanks are due to Seascale School who sent out flyers to every school family, and to Richard Wright, The Manager of Seascale Pharmacy, who, in his quite small white van, took the enormous load of tools to The Tools for Self Reliance (TFSR) Workshop in Carlisle.

I've received messages of thanks from Bill Mitchell, of Carlisle TFSR and from Lionel White, who organises the bicycle restoration scheme at the prison.

For more information please see the TFSR leaflets

and annual reports, and copies of The Prison Magazine 'The Seagull' at the back of the Methodist Church which is open every day between 10am and 4pm.

*Keith
Bradshaw*



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MAWSONS OF BAILEY GROUND GAIN 'FAMILY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD'

In December 2010 the Mawsons of Bailey Ground Farm, Seascale, received the Family Business of the Year Award in a ceremony at the House of Commons. The eighth Food and Farming Industry Awards were hosted by Agriculture Minister Jim Paice along with the BBC's Countryfile presenter Adam Henson.

The judges said:

"What started as a dairy farm and supplier of fresh milk to local businesses has grown into a diversified dairy processing and retail business with hotel and conference centre. Milk is often seen as a category where innovation beyond the basic staples of cream, butter, yoghurts and ice creams is considered difficult, but the Mawson

family have shown great innovation and even launched their own cappuccino milk variety."

Over the past five years, the Mawson family has diversified from a small dairy farm to owning their own dairy, milk delivery business, hotel and ice cream parlour. Three generations of the family now live and work on the farm and in the hotel.

Richard Mawson said: "We couldn't believe it when they announced our name. It was an amazing moment and we are so proud of all we have achieved. We hope the farm and hotel will continue to go from strength to strength and are already planning further exciting developments for the business in the new year."



Keith Ockenden, agriculture manager of Mole Valley Farms, and Countryfile presenter Adam Henson, with award-winning farming family Richard, Kate, Sarah and Ken Mawson.

ELLIE SOUTHWARD – SEASCALE’S SWIMMING PRODIGY

S eascale girl Ellie Southward was only 3 years old when she took to the deep end of a swimming pool in Portugal with just a tubular float, a beaming smile and complete water confidence, to assist her. This party piece of course scared the life out of her parents because they, unlike Ellie, knew that she hadn't learned to swim at that point. Perhaps, if her parents hadn't dragged her from the pool on that day, she may well have proved them wrong.

The following year at the age of 4 and while on holiday in Majorca, she had her first swimming lessons, returning home two weeks later able to swim the grand distance of 10m, and now she had the certificate to prove it. Hopefully that would put an end to Mum and Dad spoiling her fun!

Ellie had so much confidence around water that her Mum and Dad made sure that she had proper swimming lessons as soon as possible, if only for their own peace of mind. And so from the age of 5, Ellie had regular swimming lessons and simply fell in love with the sport. She passed through all her ASA swimming levels and passed her Bronze, Silver and Gold awards before turning 7 and that is the point at which she joined Copeland Amateur Swimming Club. She quickly passed through the Development squad (D squad) and on through C squad to B squad, before the age of 9. And now, at the grand old age of 9 her weekly training programme consists of a 1 hour Land training session and 5 swimming sessions that total 10 hours per week in the water. On average she covers around 3500m during each of the five pool sessions. Needless to say mum and dad's anxieties regarding Ellie and her affinity for water, are a thing of the past.

Ellie has represented Copeland ASC in the North

West Arena sprint league during 2010, regularly represents the Copeland ASC Diddy team in the Cumbria Diddy League and also swims as an individual representing Copeland ASC at events throughout Cumbria. She has achieved all her qualifying times for the 2011 Cumbria County Age Group Championships which will be held over the last two weekends in March and will be representing Copeland ASC at the Cumbria Team Championships at the end of February.

Her most recent outings were at Copeland Pool on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 January this year where, on the Saturday, she achieved two Silvers and two Golds at a level 2 event, which put her against the county's fastest 9 year-old girls. The following day she swam in the Copeland ASC annual club gala and won all four events in her age group, was presented with a trophy for the 'Best 9 year old Girl' and came 9th in the open age 100m Individual Medley, ahead of many swimmers from older age groups.

Ellie is pictured with some of her haul of trophies and medals from 2010/2011. Mum and Dad are very proud of her and insist they put no pressure on Ellie to do well in the pool. However, they have also been heard to say that Brazil 2016 sounds nice!



SEASCALE GOLF CLUB



Now is a great time for you and your family to consider taking up golf. Seascale Golf Club has introduced three annual membership categories for this year to make your introduction into golf less of a financial burden.

Full Membership (Introductory year 1 offer) – £280

Junior Member (up to and including 17 years old) – £20

Junior Member (18-21 years old) – £120

Our aim is to provide our junior members with all of the help they need in the form of professional coaching throughout the summer months supported by a junior organising committee who will be arranging events throughout the year.

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e-mail: seascalegolfclub@googlemail.com

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A WINTER'S EXPLORATION FROM SEASCALE HALL TO DRIGG

Readers should be warned this article contains scenes of a rotund archaeologist looking for a pint of Real Ale

The winter weather has been most useful in the continuing research into the exact location of the physical remains of the Western Hadrianic frontier that run Bowness on Solway through Seascale down to Drigg and terminate in Ravenglass.

The light dusting of snow across the fields between Seascale and Drigg has been very revealing. The snow gets into all the slight humps, bumps and ditches that the eye does not always see and the deeper snow wipes the landscape of modern features.

Sunlight and shadow are significant tools in landscape archaeology; looking at the landscape in all the seasons, removing as much of the present as possible; seeing where the sun takes longer to melt the snow (suggesting deep features) and the opposite for structural features just below the surface. This winter has scored 10/10 and a gold star for its efforts.

Picture a rotund archaeologist on a gentle stroll across the arctic landscape when he should be writing an article for Britannia, indeed had started to do so, but considered it more important to write to you. You are much more important than a group of somewhat abstract academics who enjoy nothing more than to deride each others efforts from the comfort of their comfortable university rooms; rather than getting their feet muddy.

Why?

Because this is your heritage, right here in Seascale and Drigg and it is important for you, because it is yours. There is no hiding place, you can't lose the landscape, so you might as well accept the fact you have something that is officially of World Heritage status. The problem up to now has been finding its whereabouts; but with Christmas and the New Year out of the way and everyone determined to try new challenges (especially around the waistline), there is no better time to learn how to do some

practical field work, but more of that anon.

The snow has revealed much.

Let us start at Seascale Hall, an excellent place to begin.

To be precise on the southern side of the Hall on the footpath facing the Combined Heat & Power plant, look across the stream to the flat platform. An interesting shape you will note. A bit of a quandary with this platform – it would be very easy to think possible fort platform. This is where desk top studies in the public record office at Whitehaven come in. Always do the desktop first. Those excellent people at the PRO whom cannot be praised highly enough for their efforts are the key to unravelling this and many other sites around Seascale. The platform you are looking at is the remains of part of one stage of Seascale Hall one that had a very formal garden that was very carefully described and indeed drawn in the eighteenth century. So not a fort platform – there is history before Rome and after, and it all has a part to play, so do not be discouraged.

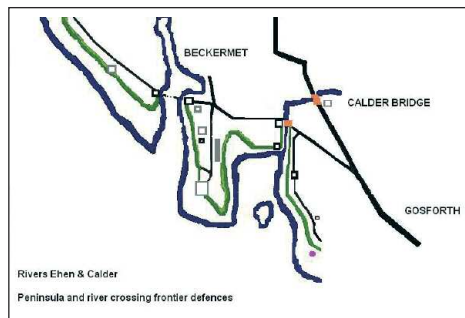
This particular, now vanished, version of the Hall was an exceptionally grand establishment. What remains today seems to be quite possibly an earlier Hall that was engulfed by the grander establishment, and then survived the demolition of the rest. Confusing perhaps, but that's archaeology for you!

There is good reason to consider that the present Hall sits on the turning point of the Hadrianic frontier, coming across the river Calder slightly above the present crossing within the Sellafield site, taking advantage of the narrowness of the river and the height afforded, and takes the right-hand side of the cleft by the southern end of Lady Wood. It keeps roughly to the present road from Calder to Seascale Hall – sadly the recent archaeological work undertaken to allow spoil to be tipped on the land across from Calder and Seascale Hall was restricted

solely to the area to be covered; had it only gone a little further East it would have saved a great deal of further effort. But there again had it stumbled across the Western Hadriatic Frontier there would have been no tipping at all – the frontier is a World Heritage Site and that puts a tin hat on everything in the way of development. Perhaps somebody should ask me about the land around Beckermiet and the Ehen in the near future?

The Seascale Hall platform has Newmill Brook to the North and remains of a feeder to the New Mill leet to the South. The walkers will note that they are in a small valley; the new road passes by on a bridge over the gap to their left. Turn towards the bridge and with the inner eye take most of the scene away; take away the bridge and the artificial hills beyond, take away the ruins of the mill; what you have is quite a steep bank descending to an open expanse of water, our Hall platform would have been a beach two thousand years ago.

To help you understand the Roman coast and infrastructure here is a sketch.



The black lines are roads; green the frontier line (roughly); the large squares are forts; milefortlets and watchtowers and the grey rectangle a potential vicus (civilian settlement).

The Calder ran south of its present course, just as the Esk at Ravenglass, time and man chopping trees down creating silts have played their part in changing the nature of things. It opened into a wide expanse and until the reign of Elizabeth I had a harbour of its own though recorded as 'derelict'. The scene would have been looked over from the vantage point of Calder Hall farm, the probable site of a watchtower; the author

remembers seeing the barn demolished and noting some of the material of its foundation having been re-used stone.

But we are heading south towards Drigg and we should proceed towards the ruins of New Mill, along the public footpath. Note the slope down to the brook, but more importantly the horizon to the left – the bank edge line, though well ploughed, still has just the faintest signs of an unnatural edge. The footpath takes you down towards the brook away from the 30m contour which for those with a map provides the best idea of where the frontier is going, round in an arch towards the Golf Club.

A trip to the Stone Circle can be a slippery one, but worth it, especially in winter, the stones standing out against the white – In stark contrast – if you consider the scene in which they were erected it very different than today. This possibly explains why they seem so lost and forgotten, one whole viewpoint, that from the Calder estuary has been lost. It cannot be ignored that they once played a role as a means of navigation, for those coming ashore. People were coming to this spot since at least the Mesolithic, as indicated by the finds of the recent archaeological dig.

The frontier is turning towards Drigg above the stone circle.

There is no right of way across the fields at this point, so to follow the frontier the walker has a choice, backtrack up to the new road, or head along the public footpath to the beach down the Golf Course. For the purposes of this walk we will backtrack and make our way up to new road and head towards Seascale and turn right to How Farm. The little sheep dog here often comes to say hello and ask if you have a sausage upon your person. The walker should oblige with the odd biscuit, which will often be taken quickly to avoid the ducks from likewise enjoying the feast. The path then does a quick right hand turn towards the beach and then turns left.

At this point the walker should stop and look to the right; note the present fence line (towards Sellafield) has remains of a stone wall just to its east, lying just beneath the turf and sticking out

just enough to give you an idea of its presence. Looking towards Seascale and Drigg it is apparent that this is a continuation of the existing wall line – this is the line as close as the walker can get to the Western Hadrianic Frontier without digging it up. The actual frontier is underneath the greens just to the right and will remain, as far as this archaeologist is concerned, undisturbed. The present field wall to the left is grand in its own right and is worthy of note and continued preservation.

The track takes you off the Golf Course and down towards the Banks; the frontier is in the back garden of the houses to the left and as it descends the hill towards the entrance to the Fairways it can be just identified as a slight dip in the pavement towards the church hall. The present drains are very gradually settling into the filled-in ditch that accompanies the frontier.

There have been considerable land changes hereabouts but lithographs and photographs of the area of green between the site of the Scawfell and the church indicate a well defined bank edge. The present Gosforth road is much wider than it was only a hundred years ago and the Furness Railway and the gas works remodelled the landscape considerably. What is clear is that the railway blocked the already silted up inlet that was undoubtedly a small harbour long before the Romans ventured north.

Because of the passage of time, ably assisted by the pick axe and the bulldozer, the walker should resist contemplating (contemplating and theorising should be reserved for a few hours over a pint, in a place of warmth and comfort) what has been lost and head for Whitriggs farm via Drigg road route. Be careful when the footpath runs out, but take advantage of the lay-by on the left to look at the fields across to the left of the railway line. There are clear indications of an earlier track and a series of structures now lost under the turf. What lies here is unclear, but a multiple usage occupation layer is the best bet – an anomaly no doubt, but Whitriggs' close relationship with the inlet and the known trade of sheep from this point gives a pretty clear clue. Over the railway bridge and standing clear of the road the field to the left of

the track to Whitriggs continues to supply interesting humps and bumps worthy of note. It's often very useful to look at the landscape from different perspectives.

From here to just before Shepherds View camp site the walker is, as far as this archaeologist can make out from his efforts, the frontier itself; the road is plonked right on top of it. It may wander a bit, but, like the track along the golf course it is close enough and does not disturb the past when there is no necessity to do so. There's nothing unusual in roads being built on earlier features; Hadrian's Wall suffered the same fate when General Wade built his military way on it, because it was a good foundation. Plus the fact there would have been a service road along the same route anyway, which is what we have on this particular stretch, improved and straightened out, but in the right place give or take a metre or five.

The fields to the left and right with their magnificent backdrop of the fells were the clue.

"Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence" as the late great Sir Mortimer Wheeler would remind anyone within earshot (in the pub) – let that be a lesson to you! Where something is not, is as significant as if it was; all results are useful negative as well as positive.

In this case any evidence for the frontier was completely missing anywhere to the left of the road, and the appearance of a tower base platform on the right provides one with only one conclusion – the road sits on the frontier itself. This comes as no surprise as I have mentioned this in earlier witterings. The supply road to the frontier merely stays in use after the frontier is abandoned, with improvements over the centuries.

Proceed towards Shepherds View and the road veers off to the right; this is an interesting diversion, as from the air and on the ground in the snow, a road is clearly visible going slightly left into the field and entering an enclosure, now lost to ploughing and straightening of field lines. It suggests that there maybe something interesting under Shepherds View. At the very least there is an enclosure and an old road course.

The archaeologist muses that this could have been a useful stop-off point for herd of cattle and flocks of sheep on the way to Ravenglass. Whilst not far from the Drigg ford, depending on how many animals being moved from place to place and the value, a safe holding place is a vital thing. The fort at Drigg may well have ended its days as a holding pen until the tide had turned. Good lord – theorising without the aid of a pint! We must move along.

The walker must contend themselves with a walk through Stubble Green; at least the good people of Drigg could afford a proper footpath, so walking is less perilous (traffic on this road travels far too fast for anyone's safety), but enough of this digression. The frontier lies to the East in the fields, but makes a re-appearance in the first field on the left with a splendid tower base. The frontier is faced with some very interesting boggy ground in this stretch and much damage has been done by excavation for electricity and water pipes to the ammunition and chemical warfare facility at Drigg (1940s).

For a brief few yards the frontier proper is under

the road and then drops off to the right, re-appearing in the field on the right along with a very nice ditch; alas this is probably relatively modern drainage, but is slap on top of an earlier one. The road then prepares to head up the slope and all trace vanishes; the road has been much re-profiled and the bank altered. The field on the slope, especially to the far right, closest to the railway is of considerable interest – but that is for another day.

The Vic calls and I believe they have some very good ale on, not forgetting some jolly good food – just what is needed after some serious archaeology. Those not wishing to walk back to Seascale can use the train, but remember the level crossing gates close a good few minutes before the train is due!

Allowing for helpful farmers (and when are they not); is anyone up for some practical field work? There are one or two things still to be looking at on the patch.

Clifford Jones, "The Archaeologist"

wtecp@hotmail.co.uk

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MOUNTAIN RESCUE IN THE WESTERN LAKES

Mountain rescue has been around for over 75 years and it came about when people seriously started climbing cliff faces on the mountains and having accidents. The first serious recorded accident was in 1903 when four climbers who were roped together fell to their deaths on Scafell pinnacles, but it wasn't until 1928 when the mountain rescue committee was formed and a further 22 years in 1950 before civil mountain rescue teams in Coniston and Keswick were formed. This was the start of the Lake District Mountain Rescue Association. It wasn't long before other teams around the Lake District formed with volunteers. Today there are ten teams that cover the whole of the Lake District from the Scottish borders in the north to the Lancashire boarder in the south and Northumberland and Durham to the east.

Some 40 years ago what is now called Wasdale Mountain Rescue team was born. Wasdale MRT which is based in Gosforth has 40 voluntary full-time team members who are on call twenty-four hours a day every day of the year and have a range of skills and backgrounds from doctors, teachers, police officers, engineers. All have one thing in common – the love of the mountains and their willingness to help other in difficulties in the mountains and other emergency situations.

The area that the team covers includes Scafell Pike – the highest mountain in England – but the team's area is far greater than just the Wasdale Valley and it is not just mountain incidents that are attended. This team and others in the lakes have over the years developed specialist skills and groups that not only operate within their own team but are able to work along side other emergency services if required. One of these groups is the search dogs. These specially trained dogs can cover a far greater area when searching for lost or injured persons than individual team members and are often called upon to help the police outside of mountain rescue areas.

Other areas that have required MRT to develop further specialist skills is swift water training. This



was very useful in assisting other emergency services during the Cockermouth floods and the Wasdale rescue team played a major part in assisting the town through use of the team's boat and trained water personnel over the five-day period of the town flooding.

As with all voluntary organisations, running costs are always an issue and mountain rescue is no different. Wasdale's team, like all the other teams in the lakes, relies on donations. The money is needed to maintain equipment and vehicles to allow for team members to maintain the skill level required to do the job.

All team members are trained to a very high standard in first aid and to allow for safe operation of the emergency vehicles each driver is put through emergency blue light driver training to police standards, along with all the other training to maintain a fully functioning and operational rescue team.

The team for many years has used a converted blacksmith's forge as their base and although functional there is a need to improve the facilities as the workload of the team increases (some 127 incidents in 2010), so a new operational headquarters is necessary. With this in mind the team has been offered a plot of land near Longlands farm to enable a new operational headquarters to be built. This will allow the team to meet the ever-growing requirement for operational capability and to meet the needs of future technological requirement.

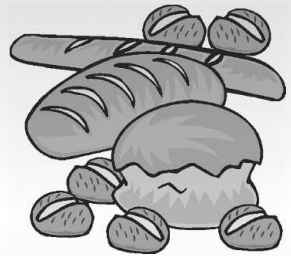
I hope that Wasdale Mountain Rescue Team will be able to rely on the continued local community support as the team moves into a new phase in its history.

Gordon Starkie

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LA'AL RATTY TURNS 50

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the start of operation of the La'al Ratty by the privately-owned Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway Co. Ltd in spring 1961.

Following the successful purchase of the railway at an auction in Gosforth in September 1960 by the then newly formed Preservation Society – a group of locals and enthusiasts who rallied support and funds – two wealthy individuals, stockbroker Colin Gilbert and Sir Wavell Wakefield of Kendal, stepped in to provide the balance of the purchase price. Fifty years later, the railway is still an important part of the Wakefield Family businesses – alongside Ullswater 'Steamers' & Lake District Estates – and The R&ER Preservation Society still plays a crucial role in supporting the maintenance and operation of the railway.

There have been numerous changes to the railway since 1960 and to mark the occasion, a new book has been published by the railway company: "Ratty Album Volume 3." This has been written and compiled by David Jenner, the company's Archivist and Eliot Anderson, a keen member of The Preservation Society. The book provides readers with fascinating contrasts between photos of the late 19th century and photos from 2010. While there are many great differences, it is quite obvious that it is still the same La'al Ratty and the railway's charm and character has been preserved over more than 130 years of operations.

One huge change which you can see for yourself is the rebuilding of the Tea Bar on Platform 1 at Ravenglass. The original building, which was erected in 1927 and subsequently converted into a Tea Bar in 1961, was removed before Christmas and a brand new purpose-built cafe is being constructed which is due to open this Easter.

The railway will be holding a

special Family Event over the May Day bank holiday weekend, **Saturday 30 April – Monday 2 May**, to celebrate the fifty successful years of operation. It will be an event for all the family, with visiting locomotives from other narrow gauge railways across the country, a model railway exhibition, a fairground organ the "Magic Flute", Stu-Di-Doo Magic shows, The World Owl Trust, Circus Skills drop in sessions, Morris Dancing by "Two Headed Sheep", live music and much more.

Trains will be running on weekends from Saturday 12 February, and a daily service commences on Saturday 2 April. There will also be trains running through the week 21-25 February for half-term.

The Ratty Album Vol. 3 will be available from ticket Offices at Dalegarth and Ravenglass at Easter.

For more information on future events, visit the railway's website: www.ravenglass-railway.co.uk or contact the railway on 01229 717171 or steam@ravenglass-railway.co.uk

If you are interested in volunteering for the R&ER Preservation Society, please contact the Volunteer Liaison Officer, Ian Birch at volunteer@reps.co.uk or c/o the railway on 01229 717171 .

By Eliot Andersen





WINDSCALE CLUB OPEN EVERY EVENING AND WEEKEND

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MINIATURE WARGAMING IN SEASCALE (or 'grown man playing with little toy soldiers'!)

I've been a miniature wargamer for 30 years now and have been asked to explain exactly what this is (and more accurately why a grown man has more toy soldiers than he did when he was a child!).

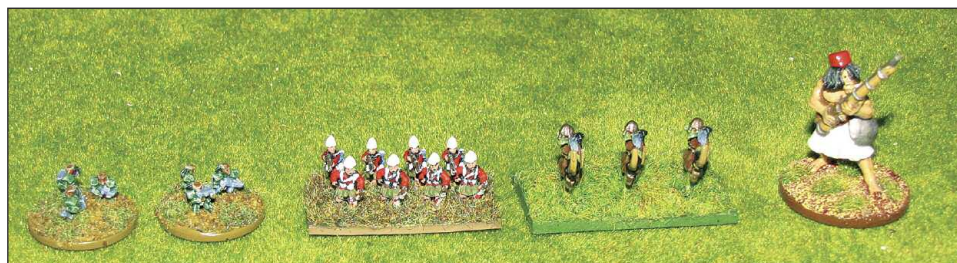
The hobby of miniature wargaming came into being at the early part of the 20th century with the publication of Janes 'Naval War Rules' and H.G. Wells 'Little Wars' where battles were fought out using the floor of the playroom and books used to represent hills. A large range of board wargames were published in the 1950s based on the Second World War and the then emergent cold war. Wargaming was less popular during the 1960s and 70s but underwent a renaissance in the 1980s with mass production of miniature figures resulting in miniature armies being more affordable and accessible.

These miniatures now cover a wide range of scales from 2mm to 54mm and upwards (the scale reference is that a figure of a given height,

eg 15mm, represents a 6-foot high individual).

Miniature wargaming is a two-part hobby dedicated around the modelling and strategy of military operations. Part 1, the modelling, I find to be very relaxing taking hours to accurately paint the models and construct the scenery, but it's always worth it for the visual impact. Part 2, playing the games themselves, is a sociable affair with much thought and preparation taken over one's army in order to win. Over the years I have accumulated a vast number of the models used to play these games as well as a large collection of scenery and I now have a room dedicated entirely to their storage, modelling and playing the games themselves.

In historical terms the most basic codified wargames are draughts and chess where each piece has a defined capability in terms of how it moves and attacks other pieces. These were followed by the classic game 'Risk' where world domination no less is the objective. The





development of miniature wargames has allowed games to be played on a tabletop without the need for a board with squares and each different game has a set of rules that determine how fast units can move, how far they can attack from, and how they defend themselves.

Miniature wargames are generally categorised as being in one of four broad groups: historical, hypothetical, fantasy, or science fiction. Historical games are based upon real events and attempt to represent a reasonable approximation of the actual forces, terrain, and other material factors faced by the actual participants. Waterloo is a commonly replayed battle in this arena requiring thousands of highly detailed figures representing the armies of both sides and is always spectacular to see. Hypothetical games are games grounded in historical fact but concern battles or conflicts of a 'what if' nature where armchair generals can pit their wits against well known historical strategies.

Fantasy and science fiction wargames either draw their inspiration from works of fiction (eg Lord of the Rings by Tolkein or War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells) or gamers provide their own setting purely from scratch or based on a book or film. This

type of game can range from hunting dinosaurs to deep space fleet actions and pretty much anything inbetween.

Wargaming has changed dramatically over the 30 years or so I have been playing them, from being something done with Airfix models on the garage floor to a hobby that is well supported by a widely varied and high quality gaming industry. I have friends all over the UK that I have met through the hobby and keep in touch with them through national wargaming shows and occasional group gatherings where games are played late into the night and the dice gods are fickle. As far as I know, I'm one of a kind in Seascale. If I'm wrong or you are interested to play, please get in touch.

Steve Black : bsteven@ymail.com



YOUNG FIRE FIGHTERS

Another Young Fire Fighters' course has recently been completed at Seascale Fire Station. Eleven young people (boys and girls) took part in the course, covering eight Saturday mornings and several evenings mid week, culminating in a passing out parade and demonstration of the skills they have learnt in front of their families and local dignitaries, including the Mayor of Copeland. The skills included a mock rescue of persons, whilst wearing breathing apparatus, followed by resuscitation, pitching of ladders and working at height up the station drill tower. The most fun was had fighting imaginary fires using hoses and water jets from the fire engine. Part of the course was first aid training which culminated with all students receiving a certificate from St John Ambulance.

During the course an evening was spent discussing road safety awareness, as soon they will be of driving age. We hope this topic will be useful to the youngsters in the future and keep them safe on the roads.

The most popular part of their training was the simulation of a road traffic collision with a scrap car. A dummy was 'trapped' in the car; the car was then cut up by the students (under careful supervision from the professional Fire Fighters) and the dummy was extricated using specialist hydraulic cutting equipment carried on the fire engine.

Throughout the course an enormous amount of fun was had by the young (and old) fire fighters, which usually ended in everyone getting very wet! The students who attended were from Seascale and the surrounding districts of Egremont, St Bees, Beckermest and Whitehaven. They were all presented with a certificate of achievement and a CD of photographs taken throughout the course, as a memento.

Thanks go to Low Level Waste Repository Ltd at Drigg for sponsoring the course, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service and Egremont Fire Fighters for their assistance. Special thanks go to Ellen and her mum for supplying everyone with cake every week!

Tony Holman



SCOUTING

This has been an odd start to the year – never quite knowing where we are going to be meeting, and having to adjust programs accordingly. I know that the water leak has caused St Cuthbert's a lot of problems and we hope that they manage to get it all sorted soon, and we can all get back to business as usual. Thank you to everyone for bearing with us, suggesting alternative venues and responding to some short notice changes of meeting place.

Planning is underway for the District Camp at the end of May and we hope to have a group activity day in June or July, depending on school trips and so on.

Looking back to November 2010 the Beavers and Cubs worked together to make their own wreath to be laid at the village Remembrance Service, we were delighted to receive so many positive comments from the other villagers regarding their behaviour, attitude and appearance. A big well done goes to all who attended the service.

We had hoped to end our year with a joint carol singing session through the village but as you will remember we had rather a lot of snow, so we decided to have an indoor camp fire with carol singing. The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all brought torches to add to the atmosphere and enjoyed hot chocolate and marshmallows (thanks to the mums who did this for us and thanks also to the Scouts for washing up). It was a lovely way to end the year. It included a very enlightening version of the 12 days written by the Beaver and Cub Leaders – think muddy cubs and wet tents and so on. This may be one of Seascale's offerings for the Scouts Got Talent at the District camp in May.

2011 is the year that the Beaver Scouts celebrate their 25th year. To acknowledge this our Beavers wanted to come up with a suitable celebration, they have decided to set themselves 25 challenges which they will complete over the year, what a great idea, so watch out for them in the village over the coming year and please cheer them on as they complete this challenge. They will also be attending the County Celebration at Great Towers in July – a day of outdoor activities when hopefully the weather will be kinder this

year than the last time the Beavers attended a County Fun Day there!

If you ask our Beavers and Cubs what they really enjoy, most will reply – the outdoor activities, so they are thrilled to have a three-night District Camp at Ennerdale in May and the Group Outdoor Activity Day where we hope to have some great activities for the children to participate in.

During January the Beavers and Cubs will be completing their staged Emergency Aid, with the Beavers working at Level 1 and the cubs at Level 2. Both sections continue to work hard towards the variety of challenge badges that are available as you will see by the number of badges on their uniforms. May we as leaders take this opportunity to say a special 'thank you' to all those who continue to support both sections, we could not run the colony or pack without you.

A number of our Scouts (10½-14½) joined others from Western Lakes District on a trip to the Dumfries Ice Bowl, for a day's ice-skating. They had an excellent time and not an injury amongst them.

Our activities recently have concentrated on improving scouts' skills at tent pitching, stove cooking and navigation. This is in preparation for a patrol expedition later this year. A police instructor from Sellafield joined us to teach us about the '5S and M' of camouflage and concealment. Scouts then used their new skills to try and creep up undetected upon the waiting leaders.

We are planning a trip to the climbing wall at West Lakes Academy, and will be learning how to safely use axes and saws to prepare firewood, and then cook on the fires produced.

The Scout Movement is the largest volunteer youth movement in the world. In the UK there are 400,000 members, consisting boys and girls from age 6 to 25 and adult leaders and supporters. Seascale Scout Group meets on Thursday and caters for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, and has links with the local Explorer Scout unit. To find out more, please contact: Info@SeascaleScouts.org.uk or phone Seascale 28296.

Our bi-annual bag2school (in our case bag2scout) collections continue, and we have now raised well over £500. Our next collection is planned for the 4 March, with another one in the autumn, to allow you to clear out your wardrobes for your winter collections. We can also take old mobile phones and used inkjet cartridges and laser printer toner cartridges, but please bag them separately. You can directly help a local charity by given your old clothing to us rather than in the various charity bags that drop through your letterbox at intervals.

Things may seem to be running fine, but we always need more adult support, not just to run the sections but to help organise the group. We do need support for the Cub section, so if working with 8 to 10½-year olds and getting wet and muddy interests you, then do let us know, but we also need people just to help organise things and generally help out. More hands make light work.

Graham Worsnop, Group Scout Leader

GUIDES AND RANGERS

Life (and I hope I'm not talking too soon) is settling back into routine following our Centenary Celebrations last year. What a year we had – 13 months of events and celebrations, culminating in a local event (Vision) at the Windscale Club when we all remade our Promise along with other members throughout the UK. During the school summer holidays our older members took part in a countywide camp at Keswick where we were joined by Scouts from Denmark and also a young Russian Guider who some of us had met on a visit to Siberia a couple of years ago. During the week we travelled to Harewood House in Yorkshire to join 20,000 other members for a day of festivity (Fusion).

The Girlguiding strap line is 'Guides in the Lead' and the Guides really try to live this. Our Patrols plan, organise and evaluate many of the activities that we enjoy and some of them have expressed an interest in making comments for this newsletter.

◆ The Guides recently helped out at the Christmas Fair. We all prepared various stalls, and all funds raised were donated to the upkeep of St. Mary's Church, which the Guides use as their meeting place once a month. "The Christmas Fair was loads of fun, but we're pretty tired out after it. It had the Christmas vibe and raised loads of money. The chocolate fountain was the best, and SO funny!" said Sarah, a patrol second. The Guides

have kept the true spirit of Christmas in their hearts this bitter winter. By Bella and Sarah

- ◆ We had a brilliant Christmas party with me, Emily, organizing the party. We had a fantastic time! By Emily
- ◆ Rhyann and Jessica are planning a fashion show to be held soon. "I'm SO excited" Rhyann said. By Jessica and Rhyann

Coming up soon, we are all off to watch the GADS pantomime. Several of the girls are in the cast so it's great to have a chance to support them. The Patrol Leaders have a special training planned, when we shall be going away for a weekend to practice leadership skills and to plan future events for the unit. We currently have 10 of our older youngsters working on the Baden Powell Challenge, the highest award that can be attained in the Guide section.

The Ranger Unit is flourishing, 12 of the Guides having recently moved into this section for older girls. This section is completely self programming and the members are gradually taking on different areas of responsibility.

We are soon off for a weekend of team building – the girls have planned the programme and the menu, and will be running the event themselves. The Leaders are just looking forward to being looked after for the weekend!

Sue Smith 28625

WESTERN VALLEYS TWINNING

The Western Valleys Twinning Association includes all the families that live mostly between Scawfell and the sea. We do not have a large centre as in some other twinning areas but the people who join the association and visit our twin are just like one big happy family. I can hear you saying "Where do we visit?" Our twin is a beautiful village in central France called St Martin D'Auxigny. It is a few miles north of Bourges, a medieval town with a 12th century cathedral and lots of 15th century buildings. The surrounding area is full of apple and pear orchards and on the outskirts grapes take over.

My involvement began during the summer of 2007 when I saw a small advert in the post office window asking for people to have a free holiday in France! Like you my first thoughts were "What's the catch?!" A few days later I was talking to a friend who had already been on one of the twinning visits the previous year and she reassured me that it really was true and that there are no catches. Apart from the cost of travelling to France and your own personal insurance, there is nothing else to pay. You are welcomed by the French families as a member of their family and there is no charge.

Most of the group fly from Liverpool to Limoges (some go by car all the way) and at the airport we are met by a coach and some members of the village as a welcome committee. When we arrived in St Martin we had a reception in the Town Hall (about the size of one of our village halls) and were introduced to our hosts.

I do not speak French (well maybe the odd word or two but not enough to hold a conversation) but that does not matter as I was twinned with a family who spoke English. If we had a problem with individual words the dictionary was a wonderful help.

During the stay there are several visits arranged to see local places of interest, there is also a lot of free time to spend with "your" family. I am very

interested in history and my family took me to see castles, old churches as well as the beautiful countryside.

The following year when the French families came to Cumbria I hosted a different family and our circle of friends continued to grow. Last year when the French visitors came I did not have any guests at all but I joined in all the joint activities.

We have taken our French twins on the La'al Ratty railway, to Muncaster Castle, to see Wordsworth's House in Cockermouth (they were also very interested in seeing the results of the flooding which they had seen on news programmes in France) and we went on Northern Rail to Carlisle. It was a special day out for people who live hundreds of miles from the sea!

What are we doing next?!!

On 25 March we are having a "French Meal" in the Reading Room at Holmrook. It will be an opportunity for our members to have a social evening together and a fun way of raising some money to pay for the trips out and entertaining the French visitors when they come to visit us next year.

In April, from the 15th to 20th it is our turn to visit France again. Are you going to be able to join us?

If you would like any further information or just for an informal chat please phone 019467 27472.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,
Pam Priestley



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**For more information please contact Nicola
or Christine on: 019467 25061**

Email: n.hallett@abbeyfield.com



WEST LAKELAND DOG TRAINING CLUB



Most of you reading this article will probably know very little about us, our history, our aims, or even why we bother spending hours and hours training our dogs, often in difficult weather conditions. Hopefully by the end you will have a better understanding of who we are, what we do and why we do it.

History

The West Lakeland Dog Training Club was formed in 1980, when Kevin and Jeanette Wilson moved to the area. They already had an interest in dog training and saw a need when an Egremont dog trainer gave up taking classes. For the first year the classes were held in Gosforth, however these premises proved inadequate and the club moved to the Seascale Recreation Association Hall in 1981.

Agility classes started on the SRA field in 1982.

In 1983 the club was registered with the Kennel Club.

In the meantime the SRA Hall was condemned and pulled down so we moved our obedience classes to Bootle Village Hall, and subsequently to Thwaites Village Hall in 2007.

Egremont Town Council approached Kevin with their concerns about local dog problems and requested that he set up classes in the Market Hall to help alleviate these problems; initially they subsidised the hall rental. This venue is still used to this day although, sadly, no longer subsidised.

1986 saw the club run their first open obedience show and agility was added in 1991. These were run on the same day at the same venue until 2004 when we split them apart. The obedience show has changed and now consists of a one-day match between West Lakeland Dog Club and Lune Valley Dog Club.

The open agility show has grown into a 2-day event run at Millom Rugby Club, Haverigg. (Over 3800 runs were completed over the 2 days)

Present

The West Lakeland Dog Training Club runs classes for puppies as well as obedience and agility, and most importantly we give a foundation for a happy dog and responsible ownership. As part of our continuing commitment to responsible dog ownership and community education we give displays and talks to schools and at various local agricultural show and events. All of this is undertaken for a donation to the clubs charity (chosen annually by members at our AGM). In 2008 we donated £1000 to "The Pride of Cumbria" air ambulance and in 2009 we donated another £1000 to "Epilepsy Action".

This year we are collecting for two charities, "Footsteps" and Hospice at Home". Thanks to all who supported these charities. All members are encouraged to take part in these displays whatever standard their dog has reached. This



Shirley and Max in the fancy dress competition at our Christmas Party.

John and Sally in training. Pity I can't keep up!



enables us to show the public that any dog can have fun with their handler.

There is a wide variety of breeds at the club from German Spitz to German Shepherds and everything in-between. We have over 30 handlers who range from teenagers to octogenarians Teachers to Engineers and everything in-between

Our Aims and Objectives

- ◆ To educate Handler and Dog in the use of motivational techniques.
- ◆ To eliminate harsh handling and training methods.
- ◆ To help everyone have a well-behaved and socialised pet.
- ◆ To assist people in improving the health and well being of their dogs.
- ◆ To help everyone be a responsible dog owner and to have fun with their dogs.
- ◆ To give everyone the opportunity to take nationally recognised tests (such as the Kennel Club Good Citizen awards scheme).

So why do my wife and I do it? (John & Shirley Walmsley.)

We've owned dogs for the last 32 years and apart from the twice-daily walks, that's been it. Dogs get bored, sometimes overweight or develop unwanted behaviours.

We moved to Seascale in 2006 and I started obedience and agility training with my working sheep dog Sally. My wife Shirley soon realised how enjoyable this activity was and rescued a Patterdale Terrier, Max, who sadly was killed when chasing a rabbit across the railway line. She rescued a working cocker spaniel, Jess, in March and started training immediately.

We've always loved our dogs but these activities create an even closer bond and it's a wonderful feeling when man and dog are working in perfect harmony. It's also very rewarding to see contented dogs that are having their natural behaviours channelled into an enjoyable sport.

Have you got a puppy or an adult dog? Do you and your dog want to get a bit fitter or just fancy having a go?

If so contact the following for more information:

Secretary – Joanne
joannewlakes@btinternet.com (01229 717331)

Chairman – Jim (019467 29193)

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dreams
come
true”

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