

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

SEASCALE

*...hoping that our long, long winter
soon becomes a distant memory...*

SPRING 2010



Bailey Ground Coffee Shop & Ice Cream Parlour

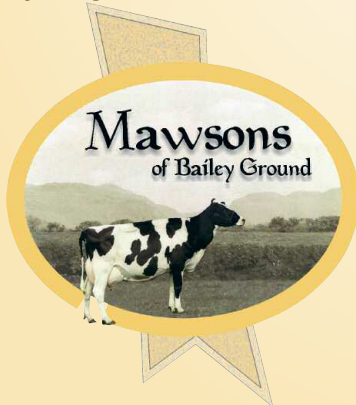
Bailey Ground Hotel
Seascale
CA20 1NG
019467 29786
baileygroundhotel.co.uk

Ice Cream Parlour
019467 29918

Dairy
019467 28278

Support us through the winter months. To suit the season we are now serving home-made soup, bacon rolls, home-made cakes and good quality freshly ground coffee along with our delicious ice cream produced on our farm in Seascale. New ice cream flavours appear all the time. Do come in and see what's seasonal and new at the moment.

Opening hours from Easter: 7 days a week 10am-5pm.



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



PARISH NEWS

We hope that spring is just around the corner. It has been a long cold winter but in Seascale we have been luckier than other places in Cumbria and we hope that our neighbours soon get their lives back to normal. It will be a relief to get our heating bills back to normal too.

Our Christmas lights and fireworks certainly brightened up the village. Thank you to John Garner and Tony Biggins who gave us such a lovely display and especially for the new lights round the bowling green. Once again the firework display was spectacular. We always think it can't get any better but it always does, thanks to Chris Burgess.

Our thanks to all who took part in the Christmas concert. The school choir was exceptional.

The Mayor of Copeland switched on the lights and, like previous mayors, he was amazed at our community spirit and support.

Hopefully we will get a quality beach award this year and be able to fly the flag from May until September. We will have two to three years to meet all the criteria, but will lose it again if we don't. We will publish the list of rules later in the year.

We owe a great debt to David Morgan who over the last twelve months has gathered 327 sacks of litter on our beach and around the village.

Vicky Borino and her husband clean the SRA field and the BMX track. We know there are others who clean up our grot spots and we are very grateful.

Once again we ask dog owners who clean up after their dogs not to leave the bags and contents in the bushes of the cinder track,

Cross Lanes and the Sellafield New Road, etc. Please, dog owners, don't let your dogs foul our pavements, public footpaths and play areas. And, of course, do not let them run free without supervision.

We have one of the best recycling records in Copeland. Well done.

We have been very lucky – our County Councillor Sue Brown has donated £2,155 for repairs to our sports hall windows. She had £12,000 to give out to the area she represents. We are very grateful.

Usually in April we have our monthly Parish Council meeting and later in the month our annual Parish meeting. This year because we normally have so few members of the public attending we are going to hold our annual meeting on 7 April at 7.00pm and start the Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall. The topic at 7.00pm will be the burial ground at Gosforth which is running out of space and it is the burial ground for the north side of Seascale.

Vicky Borrino is retiring from the council in April; she has been a very good councillor and worked hard as Amenities Chairman and has been a great support for me. We will miss her.

In the last two newsletters I have appealed to those who won cups and plaques in the front of garden competition to return them. Only one person has done this so far.

Have a good Easter and here's hoping for a better summer than last year.

*Eileen Eastwood, Chairman,
Seascale Parish Council*

Parish Councillors

Eileen Eastwood	28653
Elaine Dickinson	27288
Keith Dowber	21617
Rodney Kimber	28723
Ken Mawson	28278
John McElroy	28443
David Moore	27674
Steve Pritt	07792 109658
Clive Willoughby	07741 007495
Andrew Woolass	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

SEASCALE SCHOOL NEWS

The Christmas festivities were a great success, the concerts having gone down very well with positive reports received from the community. It all culminated in a Carol Concert in St Cuthbert's Church and was well supported.

The School Council has been very pro-active recently. They have initiated joint School Council meetings involving the Mayor, Parish councillors and local schools. These are taking place termly. Last term the school council organised a 'hats for Haiti' day, where children wore funny hats and raised money for the earthquake victims in Haiti. During the autumn term we held a non-uniform day to raise funds for the flood victims of Cockermouth.

We are awaiting the result of our planning permission re the wind turbine. Hopefully we will receive positive news regarding this exciting initiative.

We will be collecting the Tesco Schools vouchers; any donations from within the community would be most welcome.

Friends of Seascale School Easter Bingo: Friday 26 March, Windscale Club, commencing at 7pm.

NSPCC

We made £266 at our recent Soup Lunch and over £1300 in total last year. On Tuesday 27 April a concert will be held in St Cuthberts Hall by West Lakes Windband and a Summer Lunch at the Methodist Hall in July. Our grateful thanks to everyone who supports us in so many ways.

Joyce Roberts, Chairperson

FACEBOOK GROUPS

Seascale residents who use Facebook might like to head to a couple of groups focussed on this area. One is "Seascalians", which at the time of writing has 199 members and is administered by Gemma Polmear and Richard 'Flame' Abbott. A more lighthearted group is "Yes I grew up near Sellafield, and NO I don't f*****g glow in the dark!!!!" with 565 members, and created by Marie Smith!

ANNUAL VILLAGE BEACH CLEAN

Saturday 8 May

Usual place – beach car park

Usual time – 10am to 1pm

Bags and grabbers provided

Come along and help our village's best asset – its annual spring-clean. All ages welcome.

Organised this year by the
2nd Seascale Scout Group

SUMMER MAGAZINE

**To be published by weekend
26-27 June 2010**

**Please submit articles and items
of general interest to
news@epic-gb.com by 4 June 2010**

The Strands Inn & Brewery

Nether Wasdale



The Strands Inn & Brewery **BEER FESTIVAL** will be held on Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th of May 2010
Only The Strands Inn brewed Ales will be on sale, plus an all new Ale brewed especially for the Festival

Errmmm...	3.8%	Responsibly	3.7%
T ' Errmmm-inator	4.9%	Irresponsibly	5.0%
Corr'sBerg	4.1%	Galaxy Cream	4.7%
Angry Bee	4.5%	Red Screens	4.5%
Daffyd-Ale	4.2%	Snow Ho Ho	6.0%
Tete a Tete	3.7%	Barley Wine	9.5%
Brown Bitter	3.8%	Bersteinale	4.5%



The Strands Inn has won CAMRA's Champion Porter of Cumbria with its
T ' Errmmm-inator 4.9% ABV for 2009
and also CAMRA Runner up 'Pub of The Year in West Cumbria 2009'

If anyone wants anymore details about the **BEER FESTIVAL**
Please contact The Owner & 'Brewer' Mark Corr, who would be delighted to talk to you.

The Strands Inn & Brewery
Nether Wasdale
Cumbria
CA20 1ET

Tel: 019467 26237

www.strandshotel.com

A VIEW ON OUR LAKES AND MOUNTAINS

by Gareth Harrison



Great Gable from Lingmell.

All photos and painting are Gareth's own work.



Now that spring is almost here and the days are lengthening there is more incentive to get out and about to enjoy some fine walking, preferably ice free! We can more comfortably use some of our leisure time to remind ourselves how lucky we are to have this beautiful county on our doorsteps. It only takes a moment to slip into a pocket one of those tiny modern revelations – the high performance digital camera.

Having had a passion for photography since my teens, my own conversion to digital photography was confirmed a few years ago when I was shown some photographic prints of one of our window displays in Lowes Court Gallery. Taken on just a 2 megapixel point and shoot digital camera, the clarity was truly remarkable.

Although converted, I still consider myself fortunate enough to have started out in photography in the days when everything was done using darkrooms and red lights. My first boss at Sellafield was still familiar with the use of glass plate negatives! I don't mind saying though, that some of my most enjoyable time was spent learning the very basics in those early years. I began dabbling, and literally sometimes indeed paddling in darkrooms when somebody had left a tap running in one of the sinks! The small group of us involved in setting up the first darkrooms at

Wyndham School were lucky to have a relatively free hand to go out and experiment with cameras, with film and with printing all of our own work. We wasted a lot of film, and a lot of paper, but we learned in what people might call the old-fashioned way – by getting our hands wet.

That seems a long time ago, but one never forgets the basics. My path progressed through education, conventional industrial photography (still on film), via computer graphics to emerge into the modern era of digital photography. Now I concentrate full-time on my own creative work in photography and painting.

So what, in my opinion, are the factors that make a successful photograph – in these days when everybody can be a photographer? If you concentrate mostly on landscape, as I do, this obviously entails getting out there in all weathers amongst our hills and valleys. What I do not do is just go out and take photographs! It is often hard work physically and mentally, so one of the biggest challenges for me is to keep reasonably physically fit, preferably all year round. In my case, cycling the roads and walking the hills in all weathers also enables me to keep an eye out for interesting lighting moments, potential viewpoints, colours and likely compositions –

Great Gable.



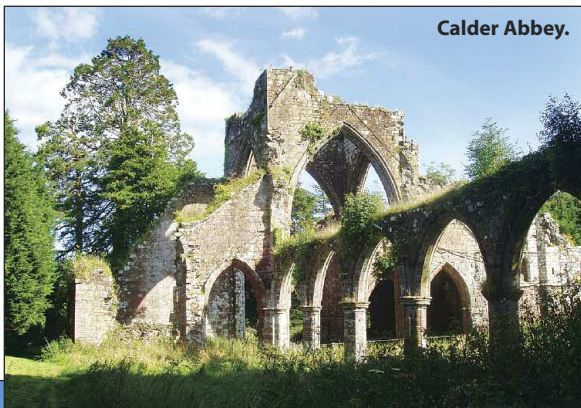
making mental notes for future reference. When you are 2000 feet up a hillside, or on a path the wrong side of a lake with your camera, it pays to be able to move fast to get to your viewpoint before the light changes – even if it means

jogging with tripod! Whilst I try to plan my photographic excursions it doesn't always work out – sometimes I arrive in good time and hang about for two hours before going home with nothing other than frozen hands.

Trilogy (near Loweswater).



Sometimes I miss the perfect gleam of light by ten seconds or less after an hour's walk. Perfection can turn to nothing within seconds – I have witnessed it many times. A few weeks ago I climbed Lingmell shoulder from Wasdale Head on a clear blue sky and perfect snow day, aiming for a summit shot looking over to Great Gable. Ten minutes short of the summit, having waded up through a foot of powder snow, the sky started to fill in with cloud,



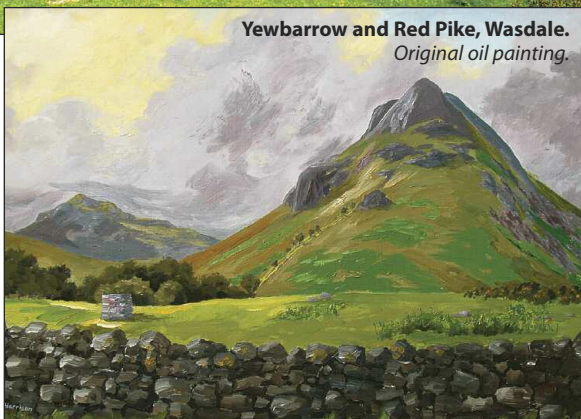
Calder Abbey.

Great Gable in spring.



and by the time I reached the top cairn the blue sky and hence sunlight was completely obscured. I waited (freezing) for half an hour, tripod set up, and then just got one moment of brilliance (providence?), a shaft of light right on to the top of the mountain – the end result giving a much stronger image than might have been got under a blue sky after all! Sometimes it just happens like that.

As regards the aesthetic thinking



Yewbarrow and Red Pike, Wasdale.
Original oil painting.

Happy sheep, Wasdale.



processes that go into making a good photograph, the way I work revolves around two major factors. Firstly, very precise viewpoint (aiding good composition), and lighting (usually governed by time of day and degree of cloud cover).

What I refer to as precise viewpoint can often mean to within one or two inches up or down, left or right – it is the little decisions combined that make all the difference between the commonplace and the outstanding result.

If the desired end product of your photography is to have a good picture to go up on the wall then it is advantageous if you consider the printing process as an art in its own right. If you are able to do your own printing on a digital/desktop system you can achieve all the effects that you could in a conventional darkroom, and more. You still can't turn a bad photograph into a good one, but you can bring out the best from what you have captured. This potentially raises the argument of when does image enhancement become cheating! Indeed, is there a borderline between photography and art? The printing process can be

viewed as painting with light, colour and tone. Speaking as somebody who also has experience in painting landscapes, this seems a logical comparison.

To touch on a wider debate, what is the difference between photography and painting? One potential answer may be that the photograph can best capture a moment (as has been said many times), whereas a painting can encompass the essence of a subject. You can invent in painting – contemplate and capture an ideal that can say so much more. Look, for instance, at the sheer emotion, power or serenity in Caravaggio's Last Supper, or in a figure sculpted by Rodin. Perhaps this is why a painting will always be more truly valuable than a photograph?

Gareth Harrison

A selection of Gareth's work can be viewed at: www.wasdaleweb.co.uk (artists and photographers section).

Pieces are usually also at Lowes Court Gallery, Egremont and other selected local outlets.

EVENTS CALENDAR in and around Seascale

- 26 March – Friday.** Friends of Seascale School Easter Bingo, Windscale Club, 7pm.
- 28 March – Sunday.** Clocks change to British Summer Time.
- 28 March – Sunday.** Gosforth Hall's Lazy Music Sunday with Angie Palmer. 4pm onwards. www.angiepalmer.co.uk
- 28-31 March – Easter weekend.** See separate notice for church events and services.
- 30 March – Tuesday.** 'Lakeland Jewels' – a slide presentation by Norman Godfrey (Seascale Evergreens Club). See p39.
- 1 April – Thursday.** Tom Fool's Day at Muncaster Castle. Small charge, in aid of a local charity.
- 3-5 April – Easter weekend.** Muncaster Castle will have last year's winner of the Festival of Fool of Muncaster to entertain.
- 7 April – Wednesday.** Parish Council meeting, 7.00pm, in the Methodist Church Hall.
- 13 April – Tuesday.** Seascale Evergreens Club for over-60s AGM. See p39.
- 14 April – Wednesday.** Cumbrian Coast Tornado (steam train), 60163, passes northbound through Seascale.
- 15-16 May – Weekend.** Strands Beer Festival, Nether Wasdale.
- 27 April – Tuesday.** Flower Arranging – by Hilary Porter of 'Perfectly Planted', Gosforth (Seascale Evergreens Club for over-60s). See P39.
- 30 April – 3 May – Friday to Monday.** Muncaster Castle Feast of Flowers with guided tours of the rhododendrons and azaleas on the Friday.
- 11 May – Tuesday.** Coffee Morning, from 10am until noon, with an attractive range of stalls (Seascale Evergreens Club for over-60s).
- 25 May – Tuesday.** 'Fashion through the 1900s' – by staff members from The Beacon, Whitehaven (Seascale Evergreens Club for over-60s). See p39.
- 29 May – Saturday.** The Lakeland steam train passes through Seascale.
- 30 May – 3 June – Sunday to Thursday.** Muncaster Castle Festival of Fools.
- 8 June – Tuesday.** Coach outing to Gretna (Seascale Evergreens Club). See p39.
- 10-13 June – Thursday to Sunday.** Boot Beer Festival at the Boot, Brook House and Woolpack Inns.
- 12 June – Saturday.** Drigg Gala, behind the Victoria Hotel.
- 19 June – Saturday.** The Lakeland steam train passes through Seascale.
- 22 June – Tuesday.** Half-year party (Seascale Evergreens Club for over-60s).
- 28 June – Sunday.** Gosforth Hall's Lazy Music Sunday with 'No Fixed Abode': Singer Una and guitarist Tony. 4pm onwards. www.myspace.com/musicnfa
- 10 July – Saturday.** Calder House's 10-year anniversary celebrations. Bookable.
- 17 July – Saturday.** The Lakeland steam train passes through Seascale.
- 7 August – Saturday.** The Lakeland steam train passes through Seascale.
- 21 August – Saturday.** Gosforth Agricultural Show.
- 28-30 August – bank holiday weekend.** Medieval Muncaster. The Red Wyvern Society Medieval re-enactment group will be camped in the gardens with displays of life in medieval times, including armory, cooking and battles!
- 30 August – bank holiday Monday.** Black Combe Country Fair, Bootle.

3 September – Friday. Muncaster Castle Folk Night from 7.30pm in aid of the World Owl Trust. Tickets available in advance but limited to 120. £12.50 each.

24-31 October – Sunday to Sunday. Halloween Week at Muncaster Castle. Ghost tours of this haunted castle sell out every year! (Pre booking). Darkest Muncaster illuminations with a themed sound and light show at night. Daily children's activities.

21 November + December + additional dates 27-29 December – Sundays. Christmas at Muncaster Castle: elegantly decorated. Darkest Muncaster illuminations and sound and light show.

December – Sundays (except 26th) plus 27-29 December. Muncaster Castle Victorian tours, guided by servants in period costume. Pre-booking essential.

12 December – Sunday. Christmas Lights Switch-on in Seascale.

All that Jazz

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

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

Lazy Music Sunday

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

28 March: Angie Palmer

28 June: No Fixed Abode

019467 25322 Admission free

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FEED OUR WILD BIRDS

by **Caroline Jackson**

Having a pet shop has taught me a great deal about not only our domestic pets (and their owners) but our wildlife in this area. So many of my customers are so passionate about feeding the birds, that stories like that of feeding Peter the pheasant and his many girlfriends gives me a smile on a weekly basis.

Birds are beautiful creatures, I would love to see more species in my garden; the odd collared dove makes an appearance now and again, otherwise house sparrows, dunnock, thrush, blackbird and the odd cheeky robin form the usual crowd.

I don't have a huge garden. It's what my husband calls a low maintenance garden – no grass, just patio, decking and stone chippings. There is a pear tree and up until recently an apple tree, but that got chopped down because it was growing into the shed. Next door have lots of bushes which grow along the top of our wall, this being the only bit of habitat for the birds in my garden. All week I have had fat balls hanging from the pear tree and put bread out on the table for the birds. I am never at home through the day so have not been able to see what has been visiting the garden, but every day the fat balls have been slowly eaten, the bread is all gone and there is unpleasant evidence of the little creatures all over the decking! I brought home on Sunday some different types of seed to try out in my garden, with the hope of enticing some new types of birds. At first it seemed as though the whole of the Seascale population of house sparrows and dunnocks had arrived; a starling tried so hard to take the black sunflower seeds from the feeder I had put them in but was just too big to land on it. All of the smaller species seemed to go for the premium mixed seed in the other feeder, in which I had added extra niger seed and suet pellets to it to make a little more appetising. I had also put out some bacon rind on the patio table, thinking this would be a tasty treat for the little birds, but instead I attracted a flock of seagulls, whoops!



Lesser Redpoll

All pictures in this feature are by Sandra Sharpe



Blue tit



Male Bullfinch

They soon departed when I let my grumpy old dog Scooby out!

It took a while for the birds to come back, but once all was calm the birds started arriving. Fatty the robin made a brief encounter, picking up a few crumbs from the decking and I even saw two little blue tits which is rare in my garden. Every now and again there is a awful screeching noise and the little birds clear off – it's the seagulls circling, seeing what they can scrounge, but bread obviously isn't such a tasty offering as bacon rind and they fly off again. I have never known seagulls to land in our garden until now because it has always been quite difficult for large birds because it is small and the trees provide shelter. Maybe I should have moved the shed and not chopped down that apple tree!

Wild birds rely on people to feed them because over the years their habitat has shrunk owing to ours growing. We are lucky here as we have a lot of woodlands around, but still, birds need our gardens as miniature nature reserves. Birds don't just need to be fed in winter but all year long. Although winter feeding benefits birds most, food shortages can occur at any time of the year. By feeding the birds year round, you'll give them a better chance of survival through those periods.

When I took over The Hobby and Pet Shop in September two years ago I was surprised to learn of all the different types of wild bird food available. There are also lots of different feeding accessories, tables and nest boxes available on today's market.

Feeding the birds can be done on a budget; with the help from some of my much appreciated customers I have put together a brief guide for attracting wildlife to your garden and some of the species you are likely to see.

Birds will only visit a garden if it offers some of the necessities they require to survive. Food, water and shelter – if these basics are found in your garden you may expect to get some feathered visitors. These may not be naturally found in your garden so you may need to provide a few things to attract them. A bird table, feeders, bird bath and nest boxes are suggestions. These do not have to cost a lot; you could construct a simple open bird table and feeders from £2 to £20 plus.



Chaffinch

There are so many different wild bird seeds available on the market. A mix contains a large range of seeds and grains that attract wild birds. Sunflower seeds are very nutritious, being high in oil, protein and minerals. Niger seeds, also rich in oil, come from the ramtil plant, which is cultivated in India, and these attract goldfinches. Mealworms are a great natural, high protein food and can be used to feed birds throughout the year. Peanuts provide a good source of protein although it is recommended that you only feed those that are specifically packaged for bird feeding.

Whole peanuts should be fed from wire mesh feeders or nylon net bags to prevent whole nuts being taken. This is important if feeding continues into the breeding season when it is possible for young birds to choke on whole peanuts. Great tits, blue tits, coal tits, greenfinches, nuthatches and woodpeckers are all attracted to peanuts. Fat is an extremely valuable food source to birds especially during cold weather and can be fed in many different ways. Yes – you guessed – these are all foods and accessories which are available to buy at The Hobby and Pet Shop!



Blackcap



Goldfinch

During the autumn and winter months it is important to put out food and water on a regular basis. Birds need high fat, high energy foods to maintain their own fat reserves and survive the frosty cold weather. Spring and summer birds need high protein foods, especially as they are moulting. It is important only to supply food on demand and not have old food hanging around. Bird feeders should be kept clean, especially during hot weather.

It can be fun and educational to get children

involved in feeding the wild birds. It may be a good idea to get your hands on a guide so that you can involve them in identifying the different species in your garden. I have put together this simple fat cake recipe to try at home:

Ingredients:

Warm one third of lard or fat to two thirds of any or all of the following and squidge together until mixed through.

- Oatmeal
- Grated cheese
- Seeds
- Nuts (not if you are allergic, obviously)
- Dried fruit
- Crushed mealworms

Mix mixture together and put it in a container to set, yogurt pots being great! Make a hole in the bottom and thread loops of string through. When set remove the pot and then you can hang them from branches in the garden.

When using fat to bind bird food don't use vegetable oil. It needs to be lard or fat.

Happy feeding!

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SEASCALE SPORTS HALL

Despite problems the Sports Hall continues to thrive.

Like a lot of places in the village we had trouble in the 'wet' season with water getting in the Hall. We have had the sea-facing windows bricked up and hopefully that will have solved the problem but we can't be sure until the storms return and it is tested!

Hopefully we can go ahead with some renovation work and decorating in the quieter spring/summer months.

The Hall is really busy with regular users for Badminton, Football, Soft Pay and Parties. We also now have Football Coaching weekly and Archery twice a week. We have our Olympic competitor using our hall for Archery!

The number of casual users is increasing too during school holidays and the table tennis table has had an airing. Can we remind people that we need an adult to take responsibility for having the key when young people are using the facilities?

Prices are still very reasonable: £5 an hour or £7 for six or more users.

We do a package of hire of the hall with Soft Play and Bouncy Castle for £35.

For bookings phone Jenny on Seascale 28201 or any of the other members of the Committee will be able to help with queries:

Pat Kirkham 28929	Linda Platt 27335
Bernard Dickinson 27288	Jean Caulfield 28435
Jen Caulfield 21954	Erica O'Donnell 29655

A TASTING OF CUMBRIAN FAYRE

Annette Gibbons is presenting "Cumbria on a plate" for Hospice at Home West Cumbria

Sunday 18 April at 2pm in Gosforth public hall.

Entry by ticket only. Price £ 7.50.

Available from Ann Cooper 25325
or Margaret Finlay 28958

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SEASCALE BOWLING CLUB NEWS

This will be the 23rd season for Seascale Bowling Club and it is hoped that, weather permitting, the Bowling Green will be opening on Saturday 11 April, or if the conditions are unsuitable, Saturday 18 April. This promises to be a busy year as Club Secretary, Henry Stewart, is president of the Cumbria Bowling Association which will involve extra visitors and games at Seascale and a lot of travelling throughout the county and further afield for Henry.

Peter Allenby, President of Seascale Bowling Club, and the Committee extend a warm invitation to anyone interested in taking up the sport. Information regarding opening arrangements will be displayed in the pavilion, or just keep a look out for people playing and call in and have a chat. It doesn't matter if you have never played before as the Club has several sets of bowls available together with overshoes for anyone wishing to try the game without spending money on equipment. The only restriction is that shoes must be flat soled – trainers are ideal. Basic instructions will be given to beginners and after that it's just plenty of practice to improve.

The Club is currently in the process of constructing a conservatory on the front of the pavilion to replace the verandah and provide a pleasanter environment for spectators. It would certainly have been an asset for the past two so called summers; "sod's law" says it'll be a scorcher this year when we have the new conservatory – here's hoping anyhow!

The annual membership fee is currently £28.00, plus a £5.00 joining fee for new members. For this, members can play free of charge; non-members are charged £3.00 per two-hour session including the use of Club bowls if required.

The Club organizes competitions throughout the season as well as friendly games against other local clubs and social events. For anyone not

wishing to enter competitions there are plenty of opportunities to join in and make new friends at casual bowling sessions on most days from 2.00pm until dark.

If you require further information please contact any Club member, Parish Council member or ring 019467 24652.

FOOTPATHS

To walk and enjoy or to struggle and maybe fall. This is the choice, we in Seascale, need to make.

There are 20 footpaths in the Seascale area walked by many people. The County Council cannot be everywhere checking on these paths, so let us do the checking and arrange for the Council to do the work.

In 1996 a Scheme was launched whereby villagers adopted our paths – walking them and doing small jobs such as cutting back the brambles from the signposts or stiles. Unfortunately since 1996 some of these walkers have left our village or their age has caught up with their ability to make the walks.

The Parish Council would like today's walkers to look at the paths that they walk and report problems such as broken sign-posts, damaged stiles or flooding to any Parish Councillor. Their names and phone numbers are in this newsletter.

Walkers with dogs must take care when crossing farmers' fields. Do not let them damage the crops or upset the livestock and please clean up after your dogs. It might be just a field to you but it could be growing silage for winter food for the cattle. Let us put it this way – would you like to eat dog pooh for your breakfast? !

For those walkers who have their own walk maps – the following might help.

Pathways starting with:

- 426 are in Seascale parish
- 409 are in Gosforth parish
- 421 are in Ponsoby parish
- 405 are in Drigg parish

Barbara Ramsden

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CRICKET CLUB NEWS

Seascale Cricket Club had another very successful season in 2009 and whilst not reaching the heights of the previous season, the First XI still managed a very creditable 2nd place in Division 2 of the North Lancashire and Cumbria Cricket League. Ironically the eventual champions were Millom Reserves who Seascale had beaten at home in a thrilling match and were just 12 runs away from beating them away when the weather cruelly intervened.

Although the Club just missed out on the League title, they almost made a clean sweep of the League's individual awards.

Opening bat Lee Fleet who started off the season



Left to right: Phil Knott, Steve Brown Snr and Adam Brown receiving their awards at the annual league dinner (Lee Fleet was absent).

with a century at home to Vickerstown, won the League batting averages scoring 554 runs at an average of 46.2.

He was pushed all the way by Adam Brown who scored a remarkable 853 runs at an average of 42.7. Adam's total of 853 runs took the League award for most runs in the season and was only 55 runs short of the Club's all-time record for most runs in a season held by Peter Goldsbrough with 908 runs in 1982. The highlight of Adam's season was at home to Whitehaven Reserves where he hit 145 in just 76 balls which included 11 x 6s and 11 x 4s and he followed that up with 140 at Ulverston just five days later. Other batsmen qualifying for the league averages were Dave Stubbings (376 runs at 28.9), Steve Brown Jnr (429 runs at 23.8) and last but not least, 14 year-old Jack Graham (424 runs at 21.2).

On the bowling front Steve Brown Jnr took the League award for most wickets in the season with 58 victims at an average of 9.5. Also qualifying for the League averages were Clayton Lee (30 wickets at 13.8 each) and Skipper Steve Brown Snr (54 wickets at 11.4). And finally veteran wicket keeper Phil Knott took the League award for most dismissals in a season – 12 stumpings and 6 catches – 18 victims in total.

The First XI will again be competing in Division 2 this forthcoming season starting with an away game at Dalton on Saturday 24 April and their first home game a week later on May 1 against Duddon Sports Club. The Club will again be entering two teams into the local midweek league or WACCA for short (West Allerdale and Copeland Cricket Association) playing home games on selected Mondays and Thursdays from early May through to mid August and also entering teams again in the local junior league.

First XI practice will be on Thursdays hopefully starting 8 April and Junior practice on Tuesdays hopefully starting on 13 April.

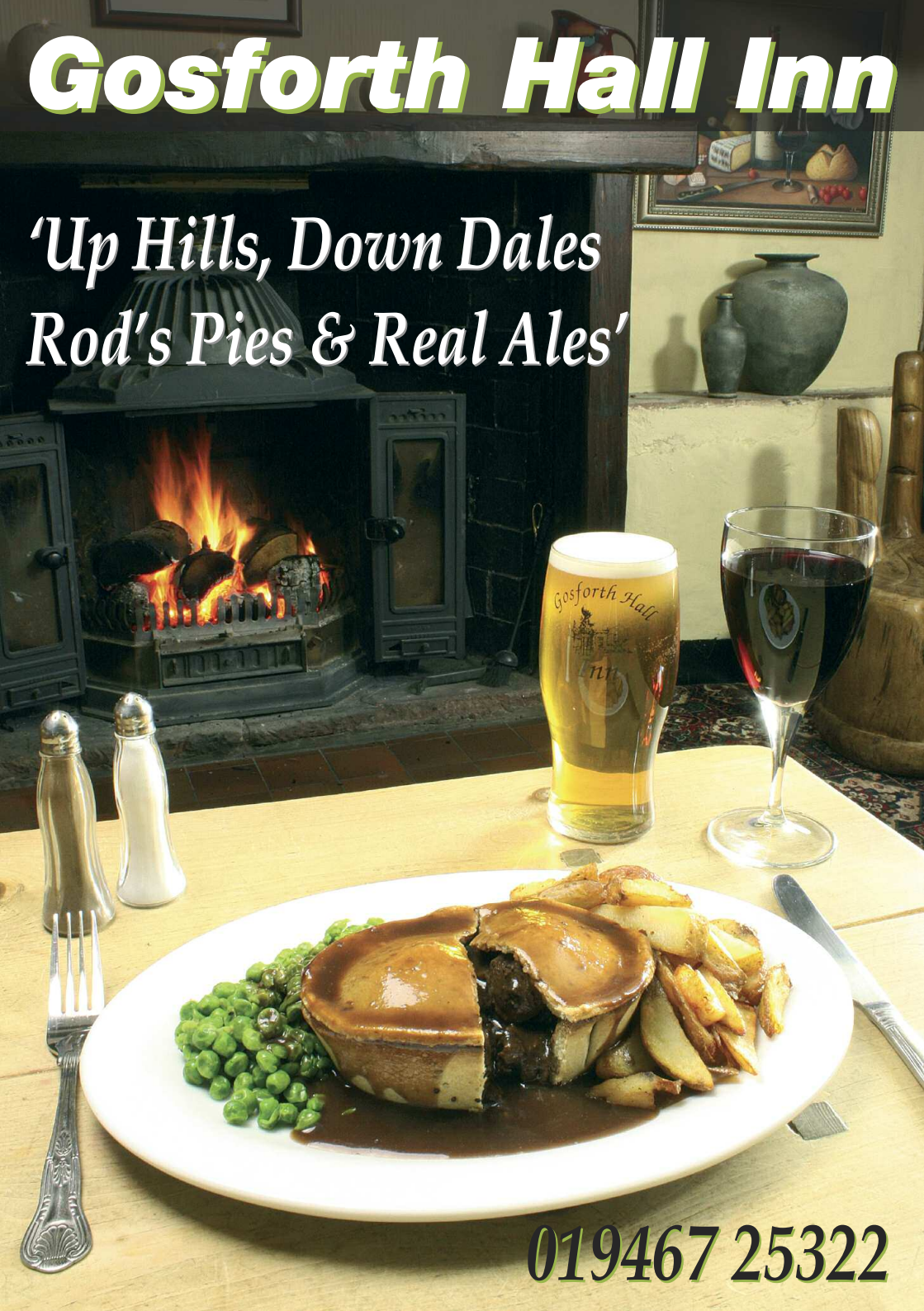
Contact telephone numbers for the Club are
Steve Brown: 28352
Andy Lee: 28292
Dave Stubbings: 01946841641

The Club would like to thank the Windscale Club for their continuing sponsorship throughout the year and also Canberra UK who made a significant donation towards some new equipment. And last but not least thanks are due to the Parish Council / BMX track running committee who largely financed the purchase of two new sightscreens for the Club.

On a final sadder note, the Club was the victim of vandals late last year when their mobile net structure was tipped onto its side and then broken beyond repair by persons unknown. This is especially sad for the younger members of the Club and village who used to use it for practice at all times during the summer. At the moment the Club does not have the finances available to provide a similar replacement.

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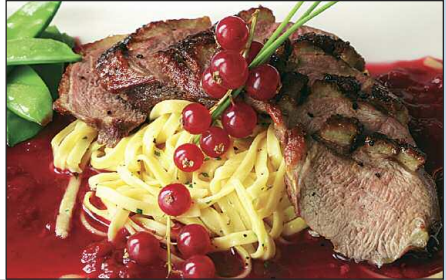


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THE LIFE & TIMES OF THE BOYS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL IN SEASCALE

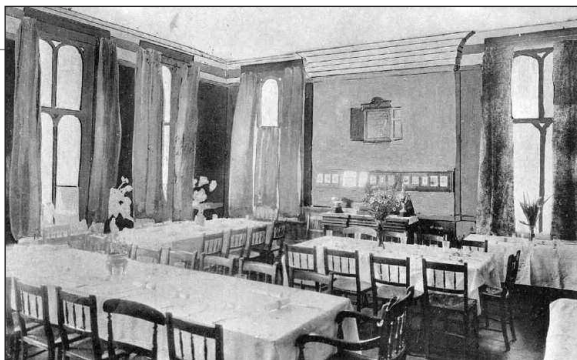
In 1897 one George R. Burnett (then aged 37 years) decided that Seascale was just the place to start a Boys Preparatory School. He was an Oxford graduate and the eldest son of George Burnett who was the Vicar of Scotby in Cumberland.

He wrote "At Seascale in September 1897 with its attraction of sea and mountain, good sands for bathing, and satisfactory road and rail communications, and within reach of my family connections – I seemed to have found the right spot". Having secured a suitable house in 'Manx View' in September of that year, he made his start with half a dozen boys.

There is little doubt that this was a high-risk enterprise which got away to a slow start, only having eight pupils by the summer of 1899. Fortunately by the end of that school year the numbers had risen to over twenty, and anxiety about the future was greatly reduced. Obviously George Burnett was running a successful school as by 1900 there were 40 pupils and the school operated out of three separate houses situated on The Banks. He decided that the time had come to invest in a purpose-built school that was opened for the intake of pupils in September 1901, even though building work was not complete. So Burnett House came into the village occupying an imposing position overlooking the sea.

In April 1901 the school comprised the headmaster along with three teachers who were teaching 37 boys, and supported by 11 live-in domestic staff to attend to their daily needs.

The next few years passed successfully with the new school comfortably full with about 40 boys. In 1903 George was married and celebrated the event by holding two operatic performances, the first being held at a party in the village (December



1903) and the second for parents and friends. The school now needed extra living accommodation to house the increasing number of pupils so he was obliged to build again. "Lakenhow" was erected on the opposite side of the road overlooking the school playground. In addition to providing accommodation for himself and his family, it was planned to house about a dozen boys and so enable the school to increase its numbers when more pupil applications were received.

During the school year 1906-07 the pupils at the school were struck down by a serious illness from which one pupil died, which had the consequence of a decrease in pupil numbers for a number of years.

At the outbreak of the 1914-1918 war the school had 50 pupils, which rose to 55 by the end of hostilities. The male teachers were replaced with ladies and finding food for the boys became a problem. George's wife was much helped by Mrs Bulman, an able woman who owned and ran the principal shop in the village, and made a big success of it. Fifteen Old Boys of the school were killed during the war.

The end of the war in November 1918 was followed in spring 1919 by the virulent 'Spanish' influenza which gripped the whole country and was particularly bad in our village. The boys, as well as the domestic and teaching staff, all went



down with it; only three escaped, one of whom was the headmaster.

Shortly after the war George Burnett retired from running the school, which he handed over to his younger brother Frank R. Burnett (b: 1880), who previously had been a teacher and house-master at St Bees school; he continued to live in the village.

In June 1922 there was great excitement generated amongst the boys, when, early in the morning they were surprised to see an aeroplane flying above the school. In a few minutes it landed, some of the boys obtaining a good view of it doing so. It then ran along the sand and finally stopped almost opposite the school on the

beach. The boys were allowed to go and look at it after breakfast. It was bound for the Isle of Man and it was stopped owing to the mist. It carried mails regularly between Manchester and the Isle of Man.

The aviator was not down on the beach when they went to see the machine. He had said he would leave at 10.30 but as the mist did not clear he was unable to make a start until about three o'clock. He even played a round of golf while waiting for the mist to rise.

Perhaps the most important event of the year 1945 was the acquisition of Mona Lodge – the house next door too the school. The school had coveted it for a great many years, partly on account of its accessibility and partly for its beautiful music and concert room. Mr and Mrs Roger Burnett moved in early January and the large dormitory was ready for use later that year.

Writing in 1948 Frank Burnett made the following observations on the then state of education, both at school and in the country at large.

"The standard of achievement in class work is very

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much lower than it was ten years ago, as a glance at the Common Entrance Papers in any subject will show. New boys now arrive at the age of 8½ to 9½, barely able to read and write. But I will defend the modern generation against any of its predecessors for general intelligence and development.

There seems to me, to be a sad deficiency in original sin of an entertaining quality. Gone are the days when a lesson was a battle, a form room a co-operative music hall-cum torture chamber for any teacher who could not breathe fire when called upon, or lay a two inch group of six where it would convey the most. I have been teaching now for twelve years, and nobody has ever liberated a haunted rat, blackened door handle or given an indoor firework display to enliven the tedium of regular verbs. And all my various colleagues have been similarly deprived of what all readers of school stories must believe to be an integral part of their daily round. I am not suggesting for a moment that they lack spirit: boxing and games and their conduct under fire have clearly shown them to match their forebears for that; but that they lack high spirits, and I am at a loss to account for it.

There are now just under 60 boys in the school: about a dozen of them sleep in Manx View, or Mona Lodge where G.R.B. first started. There are four assistant masters and one mistress to teach the five forms. We use the big music room at the Lodge for lectures, cinema, etc, and have prayers in the reading room. The old sick room up the back stairs is now the ablution room for all in the school, whilst the old Masters Common Room is now a class room."

Frank Burnett went on to make the following observations on the massive changes taking place in Seascale in 1948. His concerns on the possible impact on school life eventually came to pass in 1957.

"The new factory at Sellafield for atomic research has caused a certain amount of uneasiness, and may eventually make a great deal of difference to the school's life. Already there are plans to enlarge the population of Seascale, and about 200 houses are to be built in an area roughly centred on the village school. This is officially known as the

'Extension of Seascale' and there is a 'Further Extension' to follow, but all details are vague, and apparently subject to all sorts of variations without rhyme, reason, warning or anything else. So far as we can learn the golf course is to be retained, but I have heard that in the second extension there is a road across the field where we now play games. All the land to be built on is good farming land although there are a good many barren acres in the neighbourhood that would, so far as one can see, do just as well. What the planners do not seem to realise is that their work is permanent, whether right or wrong. I fear, too, that by the very nature of the factory we will be deprived of that beloved happy hunting ground of so many generations of us Seascale boys, the Calder. All we can do is to hope that before a long time the scientists will find some simpler way of producing this new 'blessing.' "

George R. Burnett was either George Richardson or possibly George Ridley Burnett, born in 1860 in Birkenhead in Cheshire. *Nev. Ramsden*

ORANGE MOBILE REMAINS OUT OF RANGE

Just before going to press we checked out the situation with regard to any prospects of improvements in mobile phone signals close to and on the beach in Seascale. Alas, Orange informed us that attempts were still being made to secure a suitable site for an aerial, but planning permission continues to be refused. They say that they will be making further attempts.

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

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

A colour full page is £60

Contact:

**Eileen Eastwood on 28653
or Trevor Preece on 28449**

RAISING LOW PLATFORMS

You've probably noticed that there are more passenger trains on The Cumbrian Coast Railway stopping at Seascale Station than there used to be. Since December 2008 the number of trains has increased to ten per day each way giving a much more regular service and removing the long gaps in the mornings between services.

Numbers using the station have increased substantially over recent years. These are the official figures from The Office of the Rail Regulator: 2004/05, 21,025; 2005/06, 25,681; 2006/07, 24,157; 2007/08, 26,740. Figures for 2008-2009 are not yet available, but are expected to show an annual increase of about 20%, or 5000, based on the general passenger counts on the line.

These are remarkable figures, but they would have been *even greater* if so many

elderly/disabled people had not been discouraged from train travel by the difficulty they experience in boarding and leaving trains as a result of the low platforms on many of our stations.

On 7 August 2007, an elderly Seascale resident stumbled while descending the large step between the train and the platform at Seascale Station and dislocated a small bone near her pelvis. She was prescribed pain killers and needed physiotherapy.

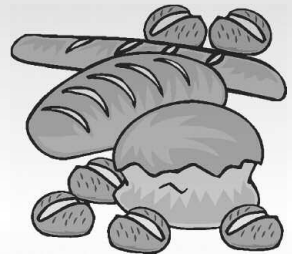
This incident was one of the first in the large portfolio of evidence collected by Copeland Rail Users Group (CRUG) about the inconvenience and potential serious danger of the low platforms on our line. This portfolio contains letters from individuals and groups, covering 70 Seascale residents and has been used to compile a report which has been sent to Cumbria Rail Officer John Kitchen, Northern Rail, Network Rail, Passenger Focus and Jamie Reed, MP for Copeland.

What has actually been done to remedy this situation? The answer is "at Seascale, nothing

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much, yet” – we still have two sets of wooden steps which do help, but are heavy to move, have no handrails and are difficult for the driver to stop at accurately (although some don't seem to try too hard!). However, something *has* happened on our line. As a result of a CRUG meeting in January 2007. Dr Paul Salvesen, then Northern Rail's Head of Community Relations, later wrote in *Rail Magazine*:

“One of the most positive developments in community rail this year has been the installation of a very modest ramp at Harrington Station. The glass-enforced plastic ramp creates a short length of raised platform which makes for much easier access to and from trains.

The idea came out of a discussion between a colleague and I and a group of rail users back in January 2007 in Drigg Village Hall a few miles down the Cumbrian Coast Line from Harrington. We had gone along expecting most of the discussion to be about the timetable, but instead, several members of the elderly and mostly female audience told us, in graphic detail, about the problems in getting on and off the trains.

One lady said the only way she could get off the train was to sit on the floor and edge her way out on to the platform. How utterly humiliating that must have been for her. We promised we would see what we could do and so the idea of a short length of raised platform began.

It was led by Network Rail, which saw a real opportunity to do something which avoided the expense of raising the entire platform height. Cumbria County Council has been very supportive and the ramp is now installed and doing a useful job.”

The ramp is being tried out at two other places in the country, and has won two national awards.

CRUG, many Seascale residents and Seascale Parish Council want 'Harrington Humps' on both platforms of the railway station. Cumbria Rail Officer John Kitchen has said that he is putting together a capital proposal to try and get a budget from the County Council for the many low platforms on the line, but that parish councils will have to make a contribution to the funding.

The more people that write or contact Seascale



This should not be allowed – Seascale station.

Parish Council supporting the installation, the more chance there will be of getting a 'hump' at Seascale, and making our vital railway even more attractive to residents and visitors alike.

Although the timetable has improved greatly since December 2008, largely due to the efforts of CRUG, there still remains much to be done: Sunday and later weekday evening services are a priority for future action. But of course these achievements and objectives are of no use to the many people who can't get on the trains, or are afraid to try in the first place.

So, what can we do? Please write to the Parish Council, Northern Rail and Network Rail asking for raised platform areas, and of course join CRUG – excellent value for only £4 per year – www.crug.org.uk or phone 01229 772726.

The topic of low platforms will be included on a forthcoming Neighbourhood Forum Agenda – watch out for details.

Keith Bradshaw



The Harrington hump. A good solution.

TOURISM IN WEST CUMBRIA



West Cumbria has a new Tourism Director. Katie Read was appointed in September 2009, and is employed alongside Lucy Hardy, the Marketing & Development Manager of the Western Lake District Tourism Partnership.

Katie will be working hard to develop and promote tourism in the area to make sure West Cumbria has its rightfully deserved place on the tourism map!



A new West Cumbria Tourism Board is due to be announced shortly, and will be made up of both public sector and private sector organisations.

Cool Coast

As well as looking at developing the tourism offer, from accommodation and attractions to events and festivals, the team will be promoting this beautiful area including its amazing coast, and all that is available for visitors and locals to enjoy along the coastline.

Katie says:

“Many visitors don’t realise that the Lake District has a coastline, and we need to make more of this natural asset. I will be engaging with all stakeholders to ensure that West Cumbria develops to its full potential as a visitor destination.”

With unspoilt beaches in Allonby, St Bees, Haverigg and Seascale to name but a few, there are miles upon miles of coast to be wandered and explored. Visitors will find strolls, hikes and adventures for all the family, from coastal walks and fossil hunting to pony rides and kite-surfing.

Then there is the option of a round of golf at one of the several excellent courses including Seascale and Silloth. Great courses coupled with great views.

And of course you can’t visit the Lake District Coast without sampling some of the local ice-cream! Bailey Ground’s, Seascale and Hartley’s of Egremont being firm favourites. It’s about time the whole world knew about this Cool Coast!

One of the many ways in which the team currently promote the West Cumbria is through an annual Holiday Guide which features accommodation, attractions and events in the area. 50,000 are distributed nationally and it is seen as the flagship publication for promoting the area to potential visitors, with an interactive version also available online.

Its front cover reflects the two facets of the area that make it unique, from bracing sea-focused experiences available on the coast, to the tranquil

and relaxed countryside around Cumbria's beautiful lakes.

Our annual Top Visitor Attraction leaflet includes many of the fabulous attractions in the Western Lake District. A massive 250,000 of these leaflets are produced and distributed all over Cumbria and on the outskirts.

As well as these two print publications, major developments are planned on the website:
www.western-lakedistrict.co.uk

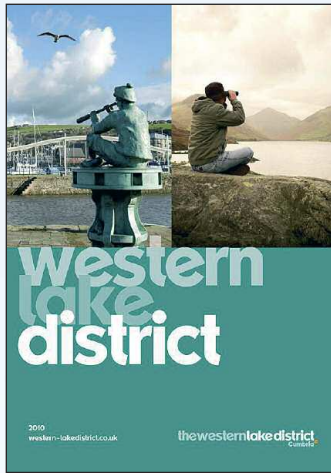
Lucy Hardy, Marketing & Development Manager says:

"Internet marketing is becoming more relevant when researching holidays, and it is important that we have a top notch website in order to compete in a very competitive market."

If businesses are interested in any marketing or promotional opportunities, they should contact Lucy on lhardy@western-lakedistrict.co.uk or 01900 818741

The Best Fest is a West Fest

Events and Festival play a huge part in the visitor economy for West Cumbria, and are promoted via the Holiday Guide as 'West Fest'. A new working group as been set up to bring events organisers together to market and promote 'West



Fest' jointly to gain maximum coverage.

Whether you like music, family festival, maritime fun or food and drink there is something on happening all year round. The loveliest corner of England is also the liveliest.

There are internationally acclaimed events such as the world famous Maryport Blues Festival, family favourites like Solfest, plus new local events including the Lakes Alive programme.

For a full listing of all events in the area, please see the website www.western-lakedistrict.co.uk or e-mail info@western-lakedistrict.co.uk for a Holiday Guide.

Local Tourism

One message that the team are keen to convey to local residents and businesses is that tourism begins at home! Visiting friends and relatives is a major market for West Cumbria and it is absolutely essential that you make the most of all that is on offer right on your doorstep, before taking you visitors further afield.

When was the last time you visited The Rum Story or The Beacon in Whitehaven? Or ventured further up the Coast to the Lake District Coast Aquarium in Maryport?

Katie Read says:

"Family & friends should get together more often that they do, and dine out in West Cumbria or just go out for a coffee. But they should do it in their own town and support their local businesses. After the devastating floods of 2009, it is important now more than ever to support the local businesses in whatever way you can."

If you are interested in any of the work that Katie Read will be forging ahead with, please contact the team on 01900 818741 or info@western-lakedistrict.co.uk for further discussions. Katie is very keen to work with local businesses and organisations as much as she can to help improve West Cumbria as a tourism destination.

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TOP 10 JOBS IN THE GARDEN

March

- 1 Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes .
- 2 Protect new spring shoots from slugs.
- 3 Plant summer-flowering bulbs.
- 4 Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials.
- 5 Top dress containers with fresh compost.
- 6 Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed).
- 7 Cut back Cornus (dogwood) and Salix (willow) grown for colourful winter stems.
- 8 Weeds come back in to growth – deal with them before they get out of hand.
- 9 Start feeding fish and using the pond fountain; remove pond heaters.
- 10 Open the greenhouse or conservatory doors and vents on warm days.


April

- 1 Keep weeds under control.
- 2 Protect fruit blossom from late frosts.
- 3 Tie in climbing and rambling roses.
- 4 Sow hardy annuals and herb seeds.
- 5 Start to feed citrus plants.
- 6 Increase the water given to houseplants.
- 7 Feed hungry shrubs and roses.
- 8 Sow new lawns or repair bare patches.
- 9 Prune fig trees.
- 10 Divide bamboos and waterlilies.

May

- 1 Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants.
- 2 Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining.
- 3 Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas).
- 4 Collect rainwater and investigate ways to recycle water for irrigation.
- 5 Regularly hoe off weeds.
- 6 Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days.
- 7 Mow lawns weekly.
- 8 Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges.
- 9 Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs.
- 10 Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs.

June

- 1 Hoe borders regularly to keep down weeds.
 - 2 Be water-wise, especially in drought-affected areas.
 - 3 Pinch out sideshoots on tomatoes.
 - 4 Harvest lettuce, radish, other salads and early potatoes.
 - 5 Position summer hanging baskets and containers outside.
 - 6 Cut lawns at least once a week.
 - 7 Plant out summer bedding.
 - 8 Stake tall or floppy plants.
 - 9 Prune many spring-flowering shrubs.
 - 10 Shade greenhouses to keep them cool and prevent scorch.
- 

FARMING

I recently attended a Farming Conference where the top speaker on Dairy Farming stated that in Britain six dairy farmers a week were quitting because they were losing money and could not make it pay. It costs at least twenty-five pence a litre of milk to produce yet a lot of farmers were getting less than twenty pence from the big dairies. Supermarkets are being blamed for holding the price down, using milk as one of their main loss leaders, do they not realising the hardship that they are causing, no wonder so many Dairy Farmers are quitting. Britain is now well under producing for our own needs which means that more and more milk and dairy products are having to be imported from abroad, where the controls and quality are a lot lower than they are here.

Another speaker stated that the world's population would double in the next thirty years, meaning that the demand for food would also double. Steps to increase production should be increased now; instead our Government is introducing schemes to take good agricultural land out of production to be used for leisure etc.

Hill farmers have to reduce drastically the number of sheep that they keep on the fells, blaming over grazing. Yet under grazing would cause the fells to be overgrown and useless for sheep and difficult for walkers.

Fuel stocks will be starting to run out and more people are installing wood burning stoves because of the increase in gas, oil and electric prices. Surely now is the time to be planting and replacing woodland, especially on marginal and fell land to prepare for the future increase of timber. It takes at least thirty years for soft growing trees to mature, and hardwood takes much longer. Now instead of replacing woodland that has been felled, large areas are left to grow wild. What a waste of ground.

Why does a milking stool only have three legs – because the cow has the udder!!

Wild Life

A recent garden bird survey revealed that the common house sparrow has declined by over

forty per cent and in some areas it has disappeared completely. This is not the case in Seascale; if you walk down Arch Hill at dusk you will hear dozens of them chattering away in the privet bushes on the embankment which is their local sleeping quarters.

Every day a large number of birds (feathered type) come to drink and bathe in a little fresh water stream that runs into the sea below the Bailey Ground Hotel: pigeons, dunlins, oyster catchers, curlews, starlings and a large variety of sea birds. From dawn till dusk it certainly is a busy place, so should this be designated a wild life area?

There are now at least eighty jackdaws living at the bottom end of the village, and some people have been blaming them for pecking off the daffodil and snowdrop heads in their gardens. They are certainly guilty of blocking off chimney stacks where they already have been building their nests. In an evening they can often be seen congregating on the church roof!

The cold weather has meant that many different types of birds not normally seen in Seascale have been visiting gardens in the village. At the Singing Surf, Drigg Road, a snowbunting was seen. To my knowledge this bird has never been seen in the village before.

On New Year's Day approximately four hundred geese flew over the village, flying in a V formation making full use of the slip-stream and changing the lead goose frequently. This was a spectacular sight. On the last day of January five large formations were seen heading north. They were the lucky ones that survived the shooting season that finished on the last day of January. In Scotland the shooting season was ended a month earlier because of snow and ice, making it practically impossible for game, including deer, to get food, thus some of them starving to death.

The mole population seems to have exploded recently, so molehills have been appearing everywhere since the frosty spell. What a mess they are making in the fields and verges. It is a long time since there have been this many in this area. The big problem for farmers is that any soil from molehills getting mixed in with grass cut for silage will make the crop poisonous for livestock.



A house sparrow. © Sandra Sharpe

The Beach

Another sea search took place in Seascale involving the lifeboat, the Landrover Search Team and the police. Two people were seen entering the sea in a canoe at Foxfield. Their car was still there over twenty four hours later so a search was launched. These people never thought to tell anyone that their trip would last for several days. The search ended when they were discovered sitting next to their campfire at Nethertown.

Our Russian visitors from last summer made contact at Christmas stating that Seascale was one of the bonniest villages that they saw during their tour of the UK and hope to visit again soon. Another visitor from near London, who has lived in many countries of the world, recently visited Seascale and announced that she had no idea that such a wonderful place in the UK existed. This I think is well deserved praise for our village.

At the end of January a BBC team were filming along the beach front for a new programme on nuclear power. Several people challenged them saying that, as usual, the programme would be detrimental to Seascale. The BBC team assured them that the programme would be beneficial to the village. We will wait and see!

In the last Seascale Magazine I commented about the sunsets behind the Isle of Man. Several times during this winter the island was covered in snow, making it an equally spectacular sight. Our local mountains have also looked stunning covered in snow.
Ken Mawson

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THE CUMBRIAN COAST TORNADO

passes through Seascale on Wednesday 14 April 2010

Tornado, 60163, Britain's first newly built mainline steam locomotive for almost fifty years makes her maiden voyage on 14 April around the Furness Peninsular and along the picturesque Cumbrian Coast route to Carlisle. After a break in Carlisle it returns to Crewe via the Settle and Carlisle line recently voted the second greatest railway journey in the world.

It's scheduled to leave Preston at 9am, and arrives in Carlisle at 1:30pm. At the time of going to press alas we do not have any estimates of the time it will pass through Seascale.

More details can be found at www.hf-railtours.co.uk

The train will consist of "The Great Briton" set of recently refurbished Pullman style carriages offering the utmost in elegance and luxury for the discerning traveller. Passengers in Pullman Style Dining and First Class Plus will be seated at tables for two or four in reclining seats and air conditioned carriages.

Tornado started life in 1990 when a group of people came together to share an extraordinary ambition – to construct a brand new Peppercorn A1 Pacific. They formed The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust and after nineteen years of incredible effort

that locomotive, No. 60163 Tornado, built in Darlington, cost £3 million and took nearly two decades to build, moved under its own power for the first time in 2008. It weighs in at 160 tonnes, generates 3,000hp and is capable of 100mph.

Tornado's construction was an amazing tale of co-operation, skill and sheer hard graft which defied the critics who said it could never be done. The A1 Trust has over 2000 regular supporters (covenantors) who have all played some part, small or large, in guaranteeing that we have steam on the main line in the 21st Century.

A detailed history of its construction can be found at: www.a1steam.com

And then, to follow, we know of five more steam workings up the Cumbrian coast, organised by Statesman Rail. This is the Lakelander, and this will terminate at Ravenglass. But in Seascale we will see it en route to and return from Sellafield where it will turn and hold. Dates are Saturday 29 May, Saturday 19 June, Saturday 17 July and Saturday 7 August. Unfortunately details of the locomotive and timings are not yet available.

For more information we suggest you check with www.statesmanrail.com and www.uksteam.info/tours/trs10.htm



A WARTIME PLANE CRASH AT WHITRIGGS FARM, SEASCALE

On 2 May 1944, what was believed to be a target towing aircraft was flying along our coast line when it got into difficulties. It had apparently lost a propeller and it eventually crash-landed into a field adjacent to Whitriggs farm. It came to a stop against the field dyke but had caught fire during the impact. All these events were witnessed by Harold Moore of Seascale.

There was a young man belonging to Whitriggs farm working in an adjacent field. He saw that one occupant of the plane, the observer Cpl Blackmore, had been thrown clear of the aircraft, and was crawling away from danger in a somewhat dazed condition; but the pilot was still sat in the cockpit.

The young man ran to the crash scene where he pulled his coat over his head and climbed on to the wing of the plane to reach the cockpit. There he found the pilot, Flying Officer Bucklee, had succeeded in sliding the cockpit roof open but was injured and had collapsed unconscious in his seat.

In spite of the flames all round him, the lad managed to loosen his harness and drag the pilot on to the wing and thence to the ground. Whilst dragging the pilot away from the burning plane, the young man noticed that the petrol tank had come adrift and was lying perilously near the aircraft. He realised that in a matter of seconds the flames would reach the tank and his own life as well as that of the airmen would be endangered if it exploded. He left the pilot, raced through the flames again, and dragged the petrol tank away to a safe place, and then returned to the rescue of the unconscious pilot. He now found that F/O Bucklee's clothes were burning so he beat out the flames with his own hands. He stayed with the



Leonard (Bomber) Wells.

two airmen until others who had witnessed the crash arrived on the scene.

Various people were attracted to the scene, including Police Sergeant Bell, who commended the lad on his bravery and said that he should get a medal for his bravery. It is said that the final resting place of the plane in the hedge dyke is still visible to this day,

The young man highlighted in this story was Leonard (Bomber) Wells of Wyndham Terrace in Egremont and a member of the Scawfell Squadron of the ATC

based at Egremont. At the time he was too young to serve in the forces but his two elder brothers (George and Billy) were already serving with the RAF. In October 1944 Leonard Wells was awarded the British Empire Medal for his actions in rescuing the aircrew, both of whom made a complete recovery, as recorded in the *Whitehaven News* of 26 October 1944.

The information used in this article was provided by Jeff Wilson of Distington, Alistair Herd of Egremont, Harold Moore & Edward Taylor of Whitriggs and of course the local press. It should be noted that there was an Army training establishment situated at Nethertown to the north of Sellafield. One of its duties was to train anti-aircraft gunners for the home defence force. The guns were situated along the coast so that the shells fired would fall back into the sea. Targets used for firing practice were towed behind aircraft flying out of the local RAF airfields situated at both Millom and Silloth. It is said that there were 3,500 accidents involved with the training of air-crew and associated activities on and around the airfields in Cumbria during the war years.

Nev. Ramsden

SCOUTING

I have just completed our annual census return and am very pleased to be able to report that from six cubs and seven scouts five years ago, we now have 24 Beavers (6 to 8 years), 27 Cubs (8 to 10½ years) and 23 Scouts (10½ to 14 years) – not all invested yet, together with 10 leaders and 3 ‘admin’ helpers. This is a phenomenal result, and is down to the leaders being willing to give up their time to organise challenging activities – and having fun themselves. I am sure that you will all join me in giving them a big vote of thanks.

Beaver Scouts had an exciting end to the year, with a Craft sleepover at Drigg with the Cubs. A fun weekend was had by all and the Beavers and Cubs went home with lovely Christmas presents for family members. During December we ventured out on a traditional German Lantern Walk and sang some carols around the village. Thank you to all those who came out to listen to us and donated money; this enabled us to purchase some large foam dice and blindfolds for games. The Beavers thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we hope to repeat this next year.

This term the Beavers have been exploring Space; unfortunately the weather on Thursdays has not enabled us to put our star constellation identification into practice. The Beavers have been busy creating Alien Boppers and tie dye cosmic ring t-shirts and we will end the term with an International Space Night.

The Cubs will shortly be out and about, visiting the Wasdale Mountain Rescue Team's HQ and going to CDC to develop their IT skills – look out for some new posters. If people near the hall have been startled on an occasion by an explosion of Cubs from the hall on a very cold night, don't worry, it was only a fire drill, when they practised their emergency skills.

A small party of Seascale scouts (10½-14½) joined others from Western Lakes District and from across Cumbria, at the Frostbite 2010 camp. The camp at Great Tower campsite, on the edge of Lake Windermere, ran over two nights from Friday 5 February.

The hardy campers experienced temperatures

almost as low as minus 3°C, but stayed warm by using two sleeping bags. One scout commented, “In a way we were warmer on this camp because we expected freezing temperatures and so were prepared for it.”

During the Saturday and Sunday there was a wide range of exciting activities to keep the scouts busy. Pioneering, crate-stacking, rope bridging building, orienteering, bird-box making, fire branding, zip-wire, low ropes assault course, archery, air-rifle shooting and a climbing wall helped scouts keep warm, as did the clear blue skies and bright sunshine.

A thick mist rolled in on Saturday evening making the torch-lit ‘wide game’ even more exciting. Two teams had to try and evade each other, creeping around trying to find the other team's base.

One of the eight leaders looking after the scouts said, “Given that most of the scouts were 12 year-olds or under, and some had never camped before, they did outstandingly well. Complaints were rarely heard, and although from three different troops, they all got stuck in together and really enjoyed themselves.”

During the last few months the scouts have tried their hand at shooting and archery, and gained their Community Challenge Award by visiting the St Bees lifeboat station and doing some gardening/maintenance at Seascale Pre-school Playgroup and at the school.

Scouts took an active part in the panto at Gosforth, both on the stage and in the audience! GADS put on a good showing of Puss in Boots, which the participating audience thoroughly enjoyed.

The lighter nights will allow us to get out-and-about more next term. A mud-walk is planned at Drigg, and after a bike maintenance evening, the scouts will be looking to do well in the bike Trailquest event, which may also be a fund raising event for Sport's Relief.

With the numbers that we have it has become very apparent that some of our tents have gone well past their sell-by date, making it very difficult for us to take the group camping. As a result, we have decided that we need to replace some of the oldest tents with a pair of new larger canvas tents. Maybe not the trendiest, but they are warm, storm resistant and should last for many years. To achieve this, two

of our Cubs put together and delivered a presentation to the Bootle and Seascale Neighbourhood Forum who decided to award us a very substantial grant towards these tents. They also helped us to make an application to the Cumbria Community Foundation who have just awarded us a similar generous grant. The tents are now on order! Very many thanks go to the Foundation and to Cumbria County Council via the Neighbourhood Forum.

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.

We have done our own fundraising, and have managed to raise a total of nearly £390 from our bag2school (in our case bag2scout) collections plus £220 from other activities. We have another collection planned just before this newsletter reaches the streets, but there will be one in the autumn, to allow you to clear out your wardrobes for your winter collections.

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

SEASCALE EVERGREENS CLUB

The meetings and events still to come for the first half of 2010 are as follows:

- 30 March 'Lakeland Jewels' – a slide presentation by Norman Godfrey
- 13 April Annual General Meeting
- 27 April Flower Arranging – by Hilary Porter of 'Perfectly Planted', Gosforth
- 11 May Coffee Morning, from 10am until noon, with an attractive range of stalls
- 25 May 'Fashion through the 1900s' – by staff members from The Beacon, Whitehaven
- 8 June Coach outing to Gretna
- 22 June Half-year party

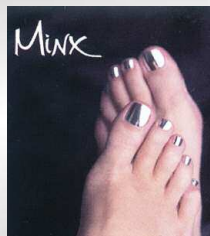
All dates are Tuesdays and, unless indicated otherwise, meetings and events start at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall.

Membership is open to ladies and gentlemen, aged 60 or over, and to anyone disabled, of whatever age. We would be delighted to welcome new members, who can be assured of an interesting, varied and rewarding programme throughout the year, with good fellowship as a keynote. The easiest way to join is to come to a meeting. Alternatively, Maureen Camlin (phone 28473) will be pleased to enrol you, or to supply any further details you may wish for.

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GUIDES

The last few months seem to have flown past. If I look back to the last edition of the newsletter I see that we were about to head off to London to go to the BIG GIG, Girlguiding's annual pop concert.

Well, what a trip we had! We set off for Kendal in a Sim's coach early on a Saturday morning, caught an inter-city train to London arriving around lunchtime, found our accommodation and then headed on the underground to Camden Market for the required session of retail therapy. Then it was a quick McDonalds, another trip on the underground and a breathtaking arrival at Wembley Arena where we joined over 13,000 more Guides to listen to acts from JLS, the Noisettes, Scouting for Boys and more. Yes, it was very noisy... On Sunday morning we did a whistle stop tour of some of the sights – the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, London Eye, Trafalgar Square and Covent Garden before leaving for home around lunch time.

The Guides working towards their Baden Powell Award have continued to take on board the organisation of several of our meetings. Most of our 13 and 14 year-olds are extremely capable young women and display organisational and people skills way beyond their years. As Leaders we are extremely proud of them. In addition to the girl led meetings we have enjoyed sessions of first aid, relaxation and craft. And of course, we went to the Gosforth panto. Several of the Guides were in the cast and it was good to be able to support them. We have also supported the St Mary's church, Gosforth Christmas Fair and Christingle Service and for the first time this year were asked to be present at The Remembrance Service at Seascale Church.

We are now making plans for the rest of the year. The older girls are in the throes of organising a night away at Wastwater Youth Hostel while our younger members have expressed an interest in organising their own event in a local village hall. We are also preparing for a week's camp in August during which time we shall be taking part in the national centenary event, called Fusion, at Harewood House in Yorkshire.

Sue Smith, 019467 28625

HOLY WEEK EXPERIENCE IN SEASCALE METHODIST CHURCH

Last Easter during Holy Week I called into Egremont Methodist Church to learn more about "The Holy Week Experience" that had been set up. It was very moving, so I thought it would be good to repeat it in Seascale this year.

During Holy Week there will be various prayer stations set up around the church to help us remember and focus on the events of the first Holy Week leading up to Jesus' death. The stations will range from the bright materials and palm crosses of Palm Sunday to the cold nails of Good Friday and the body in the tomb. At each station there will be a card with suggestions for prayer and meditations to help guide our thoughts.

It is hoped that members of other churches and indeed people with no church connections in our village may visit our church to experience Holy Week in a new and moving way.

The Church will be open as follows:

Palm Sunday, 28 March, 2pm-4pm

Monday, 29 March to Maundy Thursday, 1 April
10am-12 noon and 2pm-4pm

Good Friday, 2 April, 2pm-4pm

Also Late Night Opening – Wednesday, 31 March, 7pm-9pm

EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday, 28 March, 10am, Seascale Methodist Church

United Good Friday Service, 2 April, 10am at St Cuthbert's, Seascale

Easter Sunday, 4 April, 10am. All Age Worship, Seascale Methodist Church

Elaine Harrison

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