

SEASCALE

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

**SEASCALE CHARITY
VILLAGE FUNDAY
8 July**

**A Tale of
Two Cannon**
see page 10

SUMMER 2006

PARISH NEWS

We have received a lot of good comments about the car park charges being dropped. We are in the process of setting up an honesty box to try and alleviate the cost to the village.

When you receive this newsletter the bakery will have reopened – we wish the new owners well.

We are running the Front Garden Competition again this year – good luck to all you keen gardeners. Would last year's winners please return the cups to a member of the Parish Council or Horticultural Society.

I'm sure you will have noticed our plastic bottle recycling amenity in the car park. There is a full write up in Copeland Matters.

I'm sorry to say we are still trying to get the untidy grassed areas sorted out; the firm that Mr Shand sold them to is saying they don't own them any more and say we have to get in touch with the Land Registry to find the new owners (we have tried but don't seem to be able to get any more information).

To update you on village pavements – we are still waiting for a work schedule for this. I hope by the next newsletter this will be sorted out.

The beach is looking really good and with unlimited parking, if the good weather stays with us, we should see holidaymakers and locals enjoying this lovely green.

We had Steve Bishop down to talk about new enforcement laws. This was your chance to ask questions. As the meeting was so poorly attended we have to assume you will be happy with all the new laws when they are brought into force.

*E. Eastwood
Parish Council*

Wimbledon is upon us

Not quite at that level, but are you aware what excellent facilities Seascale has for tennis? Ever thought you would like to play but worried that you are not good enough? Worry no more – many of us are not that good! Come along and give it a try. All you need is suitable footwear. We can lend you a racquet if necessary.

Seascale Tennis Club meets and plays on Sunday and Wednesday mornings from 9.30'ish – 12.00. For the more aspiring there are teams in the West Cumbria Tennis League playing during the summer evenings. Junior players would be particularly welcome. Tempted? Don't put it off – come and meet us.

*Melvyn Kendall
Chairman*

British Red Cross – Seascale Centre

The annual Red Cross Week Collection, 7-13 May 2006, raised £1,121.66. Thank you to all who gave so generously and those who helped.

Seascale Centre has various activities – Day Care, First Aid, and Fundraising. Volunteers are always welcome. For further information contact:

Elizabeth Finlay on 019467 28743.

Library Seat

You may have noticed a change at the front of the library: the wooden seat having become unsafe, the Parish Council has kindly removed it and temporarily placed a spare one there.

As the Seascale Women's Institute had purchased the original seat, they are planning to replace it with a new one soon.

Watch that space!

*Judy Hall
President, Seascale W.I.*

Rainbows

The Rainbow unit is now running at full capacity; several girls made their Rainbow Promise and were given their badges earlier in the term. All three Leaders have also made their Promise as adults as they complete their Leadership training.

The Rainbows have been enjoying some activities that the Leaders did at the Guiders County Training Day in April. They have made and flown kites and more recently made mini-greenhouses in which they have planted hand-painted pots with seeds. As the weather has become warmer they have been able to go to the playing field to play games too.

If you would like your daughter to be added to the waiting list, please contact Joan 019467 21164 or Jenny 01946 825887.

Street Lights

If one goes out near you, please note the number on it and...

For highway lights, ring the County Hotline
Tel: 0845 609 6609

For pavement lights, ring the Copeland Hotline
Tel: 0845 095 2100

Seascale Horticultural Society

Fun Day Stall – 8 July 2006

The SHS will be selling plants and cakes on a stall at the Calder House Fun Day on Saturday 8 July. We are hoping to raise funds to help towards the cost of the Flower Show so your support at this event will be much appreciated.

Flower Show – 12 August 2006

The Flower Show will be held this year on Saturday 12 August with the usual classes for all you creative people – Flowers, Fruit & Vegetables, Produce, Crafts, Flower Arranging and a wide range of classes for children. Last year's show produced a wonderful display, so please support us once again either by entering or just by coming along to admire the work of others.

TOP 10 JOBS IN YOUR GARDEN

JULY

- 1 Check clematis for signs of clematis wilt.
- 2 Place conservatory plants outside now that it is warm.
- 3 Water tubs and new plants if dry, but be water-wise.
- 4 Dead-head bedding plants and repeat-flowering perennials to ensure continuous flowering.
- 5 Pick courgettes before they become marrows.
- 6 Treat apple scab.
- 7 Clear algae, blanket weeds and debris from ponds, and keep them topped up.
- 8 Order catalogues for next year's spring bulbs.
- 9 Give the lawn a quick-acting summer feed, especially if a spring feed was not done.
- 10 Give woodwork a lick of paint or preserver while the weather is dry.

AUGUST

- 1 Prune Wisteria.
- 2 Don't delay summer pruning of restricted fruits, eg cordon/espalier.
- 3 Deadhead flowering plants regularly.
- 4 Watering! Particularly containers and new plants.
- 5 Collect seed from favourite plants.
- 6 Harvest sweetcorn and other vegetables as they become ready.
- 7 Continue cutting out old fruited canes on raspberries.
- 8 Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners.
- 9 Keep ponds and water features topped up.
- 10 Feed the soil with green manures.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Divide herbaceous perennials.
- 2 Pick autumn raspberries.
- 3 Collect and sow seed from perennials and hardy annuals.
- 4 Dig up remaining potatoes before slug damage spoils them.
- 5 Net ponds before leaf fall gets underway.
- 6 Keep up with watering in the garden, as the ground may be dry from the summer.
- 7 Start to reduce the frequency of houseplant watering.
- 8 Clean out cold frames so that they are ready for use in the autumn.
- 9 Cover leafy vegetable crops with bird-proof netting.
- 10 Give evergreen hedges a final trim.

Frank Sloan

New in town – Rapunzel

Rapunzel Floral Design is owned and run by partners Pauline Lagan and Kevin Sanders. Pauline is a fully trained and qualified florist with 20 years' experience in the flower trade. She studied at Newbattle Abbey College in Edinburgh and Aberdeen University gaining City & Guilds 1, 2, 3 in Floristry, Agriculture, Horticulture and Allied Industries. She has been interested in Art and Craft activities from a very early age.

She is also a member of the Carlisle and Cumbrian Artists and exhibits work around the county, her love of flowers and nature being a great source of material for her paintings as well as her floristry talent. Her handmade greetings cards, painted glassware, hand-decorated candles and some of her paintings are on display in the shop.

No doubt you will have seen her yellow delivery van around the district delivering between Whitehaven, Bootle and both valleys. Rapunzel is also a member of Flowergram which is a relay flower delivery service nation- and worldwide.

Pauline likes to pursue her instinct to portray colour, excitement and movement in her paintings. She says "Painting is not always about what you see but how you feel, a relation to the senses, the colourful waves of a bright dream".

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Brownie News

What an exciting start to the year we have had here at Brownies. We had a great 'Sleepover' on the 31 March. Not that anyone got much sleep though, for there was far too much to do to sleep. We went for a torchlight walk along the beach, followed by a delicious supper of pizza and chips. Then on the stroke of midnight, our three new Brownies, Chloe, Laura and Louise, all made their Promise, followed immediately by two of the Leaders, Karen Newbold and Joan Sim. Karen has now completed her Leadership Qualification and Maggie Huddleston also gained her Overnight Licence that evening.

Once we had all caught up on our sleep we packed our rucksacks again and headed off to Thwaites, near Millom, for our annual Pack Holiday. This time Karen Newbold was working toward her Pack Holiday Licence. The theme for the weekend was Scruffs Dog Show (no doubt a Jennifer Matches influence!). The whole weekend was centred around dogs and doggy activities accumulating in a 'Grand Dog Show' on the Sunday afternoon. Despite the weather we had a fantastic time and are eagerly looking forward to the next one!

Fourteen Brownies and three leaders recently visited Yottenfews, where we went pond dipping and tree hugging. It was a real fun evening and those taking part all gained their Discovery Badge.

We say goodbye to three Brownies soon – Claire, Joanna and Sarah who will be leaving us for Guides – but we will be welcoming three girls who are waiting to take their places.

At the last count we had 21 Brownies and wait for it – a staggering 10 leaders and helpers – Fantastic!

So from...

Lynn, Maggie, Karen, Christine, Joan, Lynn, Sarah, Laura and Laura ... Bye

Lynn Pattison 25413

Rangers

We, the Rangers, have just returned from a weekend away training for our Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions. We stayed at Santon Bridge Village Hall and practised all sorts of things including team work, cooking on camping stoves and map reading. We did two mini expeditions (without getting lost), one of them carrying proper expedition rucksacks. On Saturday evening we walked up Irton Pike and some of us remade our Promises as the sun set. We also made a giant snake which we shall be entering in the Gosforth Fun Run! And we started to write this report.

At the end of April some of the Rangers who are also Young Leaders went to County Training Day along with several hundred adult leaders. Everyone who went learnt lots of new activities that they could do with the units that they help with and some stayed overnight and enjoyed another day of training on the Sunday.

Other activities that we have enjoyed are soap making with Madonna Adams and a visit from Rachel McKee, the Police Community Liaison Officer. We also had a go at encaustic art when you melt wax on an iron and then transfer the wax to card to make a picture.

Our next weekend away is at the end of June when some of us will be going on an International Opportunities weekend near Ullswater and, if we are lucky, we may be selected to represent Girlguiding abroad. At the beginning of August we are off to County Camp at Keswick. Our sub-camp will be especially for Rangers and Young Leaders and we will also have some Russian Guides and their leaders camping with us. Debbie Keighley, our County Commissioner who has been to Russia, came along to Rangers to tell us a little about Guiding in Russia and to *try* to teach us some useful words.

Then, in October, loads of us are going to Girlguiding's BIG GIG pop concert which this year is being held at Wembley Arena in London. We shall be doing some sightseeing too. For some of us this will be our first trip to London.

Respect Campaign

Cumbria Police are concerned about acts of minor criminal damage that have occurred over recent weeks and months in the Seascale area, with eight individual reports during March alone. The mirror for motorists going under the railway bridge has been vandalised four times this year and there has also been damage caused at Hallsenna Road, The Railway Station, Sea View and Wasdale Park.

The cost of the damage is not restricted to finance alone; the safety of road users (vehicular and pedestrian) may be compromised because visibility is severely reduced when the mirror is damaged.

Residents are concerned that this is detrimental to the quality of life in the area and police are keen to hear from anyone that can assist with enquiries in relation to these incidents of criminal damage or other anti-social behaviour. Anyone with information should contact local police on 0845 33 00 247 ext 3505 or alternatively call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 – which can be done anonymously.

Lives at Risk

In the last five months the traffic mirror on Arch Hill has been vandalised four times. The cost so far to replace these has been over £1,200. When the money runs out at the County Council there will be no replacements. This would mean lives at risk – children going to school, cyclists, motorcyclists, all pedestrians and motorists.

If you see a crime this serious, please telephone the police right away – you could maybe save a life – and it could be you at risk!!

If you have any information on crime/incidents in the village, please contact P.C.R. McKee on 0845 3300247

Scouts

One thing is for sure in scouting – nothing remains the same for long. Who would have thought in May, that I'd be writing this at the start of June, with the sun beating down, and summer showing signs of having arrived? It's great news for our Cubs who are at an adventure centre in Shropshire, and a massive change from when the Scouts were at the County Karting championship in April.

The Cubs enjoyed the 90th Birthday Party recently – next year, the movement will be in its centenary, so watch out for special activities. Now, they are enjoying all sorts of activities at Boreatton Park in Shropshire – zip-wire, abseiling, high ropes, quad biking and so on. One cub even managed a trip in an ambulance – nearly an air ambulance – but all was well, and he couldn't wait to get back on the quad bike to show it who was in charge.

In April the scouts attended the County Karting Championships at Littledale, camping over the weekend in sub-zero temperatures and participating in a range of activities supporting the main event – a 10-stage challenge for the home designed and built karts. The main kart came in 6th out of 16, but the second one came in 5th – despite having to have running repairs from branches and lashing (the event christened it the 'backwoods kart'). Unfortunately, even the running repairs failed, and the kart eventually finished without any of its bodywork – making the pushing very hard work for all. Teamwork proved far more important to success than vehicle robustness, but the team who won did manage to achieve both – well done to the all girl team from Workington.

There are three big events coming up: the group camp at Branthwaite again in June – this should be a good event, and we have already had an offer from a past scout leader to come and help, as well as a past Venture Scout Leader from Workington – things could get challenging. There's also the District trip to the South Lakes Wildlife Park, and we hope to see you at our stall at the Village Fun Day at Calder House – all we need is for the good weather to continue for all events.

A good number attended the District St George's Walk at Moresby, at the end of which everyone renewed their promises.

We couldn't achieve any of this without the help of parents and leaders – many thanks to John, Phil and Alix – there would have been no Karting championship without you. We have started a parents' rota to ensure that we always

have at least two adults present at all times, many thanks to the parents who have helped us with this, and I hope that you've enjoyed the experience as much as we do. So far as leadership goes, Sara has stood down from her role in the District to be able to lead the Cubs and still assist with the Beavers, and that has allowed Alan to move to Scouts – but Alan's time with us may be limited, so we still need to find someone willing to take on the role of Scout Leader – if you're interested in helping in any way, do let me know. On a personal point, many thanks to everyone who stepped in to help while I was out of action.

Graham Worsnop: Group Scout Leader, 2nd Seascale Scout Group. Tel: 019467 28296

Guides

In the last newsletter we reported that we had chosen new Patrol Leaders and that we had been on a team building trip to Wastwater Youth Hostel. This exercise, which included choosing new Patrol Seconds, has really paid dividends as we now have six extremely well led patrols which are self-programming many of their activities. The adult leaders are really proud of you all.

We finished last term with an Easter Egg Supper Hike, walking and eating our way from Drigg to Seascale along the beach. Many of our new members chose to make their Promise en route and we were joined by the parents of these

Guides at various stages of the hike.

In addition to our Guide programme evenings, otherwise known as Go For It (GFI) evenings, we have organised a couple of craft evenings, one clean and one messy (!) and a St George's Day themed evening, and we are just starting to use activities from an exciting new resource aimed at helping us to become more aware of human rights and responsibilities.

Events to come during the next few months include the Gosforth Fun Run and the 'Giant Sleepover' when (weather permitting) the girls will be spending the night under the stars (not in tents but really under the stars). This is a national event organised to raise money for the charity 'Childline'. We also have planned more GFI evenings, a beach BBQ and some sessions of camp skills in preparation for County Camp at the beginning of August. This year's Guiding pop concert, known as the BIG GIG will be taking place in London in October and we will be taking a group of 40 from this area to take part in this event.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank our adult leaders, Chris, Linda, Margaret and Sue W who give up so much of their free time to provide opportunities for the girls, and also our three Young Leaders, Georgia, Sarah and Vicky who provide a valuable link between the 'youngies' and the 'oldies'.

Sue Smith 28625



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A Tale of Two Cannon

by Neville Ramsden

Many years ago (1909), it would appear that the good burghers of Whitehaven were having a tidy-up of their assets. A Seascale resident, who was a business man in Whitehaven, obviously got wind of this event and rather fancied one of the cannons that had once formed part of the defences at Whitehaven docks. He persuaded the Parish Council that it would look just fine on grass banking in front of the Railway Station Café. This was Mr Whittle, of Whittle & Son the Ironmongers of Whitehaven, and he obtained a cannon that had belonged to the Half Moon Battery on the west pier at Whitehaven. This gun battery had been established during the American War of Independence and could have been one of the cannon spiked by John Paul Jones during his famous 1778 raid on Whitehaven. Mr Whittle paid for the gun and its transport to Seascale along with a wooden gun carriage that was made by a local tradesman. The Council had to pay 1 shilling each year to the Furness Railway as rental for this patch of land.

The Whitehaven News reported these events in February 1910 as follows: "The inhabitants of Seascale, Gosforth and Neighbourhood, who have had their mind much agitated and alarmed of late by the so called German scare will have been made easy that no invasion is possible, now that a large CANNON has just been fixed behind the waiting room of Seascale Station, overlooking the sea. It did effective service in the Crimean War, and now in its new position, was a very formidable appearance, and will no doubt have the desired effect of disabusing the minds of the Germans of the feasibility of making an attempt on these shores (if they ever entertained it)."

The 1914-1918 war now played a part in this story, as in 1915 the parish Council, with the consent of Mr Whittle the owner, decided that the gun be buried temporarily where it stands. This was carried out by Mr James Tyson who was a councillor.

It would seem that the Germans were unimpressed by the Seascale Cannon, as they sent the Submarine U-4, which had a gun mounted on its fore deck casing, to this coast firing at various coastal sites. It surfaced off the north pier at

Whitehaven on the 16th August 1915 and fired eleven shells at the Lowca Coke Ovens. The shells fell in the surrounding area with no casualties except for the death of one dog. Was this event the reason for the Council hurriedly wanting the cannon buried – so as to be out of sight of passing enemy boats?

After the war life returned to normal in Seascale and in July 1919 the Council paid Mr Whittam of Gosforth £4-10-0 to dig up the cannon and remount it on its carriage that had been stored for the duration in Mr Sharpe's yard. The gun was returned to its rightful place and everything went quiet on the gun front until March 1940 when the Chairman of the Parish Council suggested: "Seeing the price now being paid for scrap we'll sell the gun and with the proceeds make a new fence on the road side of the Dell. It was generally considered that these relics had ceased to have any historical or public interest."

On 3 September 1940 a letter was received from The Ministry of Supply saying that: "it would be quite in order for the Council to dispose of the gun on the Foreshore under the Millom Rural District Council Salvage Scheme and thereby make it available for the National Scrap Scheme."

Villagers should note that it was this fence, paid for by the sale of the cannon, that was recently replaced along the side of the road past the Dell. So ended part one of the cannon story.

Round Two

About 1996 the thoughts of some of the village elders turned again to the missing cannon. A period of negotiation between Eileen Eastwood and a very friendly Superintendent in Charge of the Eskmeals gun range – Colonel Brown – eventually bore fruit two years later. He was able to locate a 17th Century Rose & Crown cannon at HMS Nelson and arrange for its permanent loan to Seascale Council. The apprentices at Eskmeals both designed and built a new gun-carriage to take this gun. This unit arrived in Seascale in July 1998 and it sat on the grass bank by the Railway Station, as had its predecessor, until the year 2000. In that year the cannon was re-sited onto the castle as part of the millennium celebrations.



LINE DANCING



North West Air
Ambulance

Join the Seascale Stompers and raise money for charity

Every Monday 7.30 - 9.30 at the Windscale Club

All ages welcome

Admission: Adults £2 Children £1 Spectators 50p

£3043 donated to local charities including First Responders, North West Air Ambulance, Mountain Rescue, PALSS, Children in Need and Freemans Hospital last year.

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Seascale Primary School Extra Curricular Success

Seascale School has had an excellent year, taking part in extra curricular activities throughout the academic year.

The football team has done extremely well this year, winning the 'Sportsman Trophy' in a competition at the Sands Centre, Carlisle.

A mini league took place between local schools and Seascale were the winners. An end of tournament game was arranged at Harecroft School where the presentation of the league trophy took place, and Seascale won that tournament too!

We say a very big thank you to Mr Jim Watson for all his hard work, time and effort given to the football teams over the years. Jim has decided to hang up his boots, but will still be keeping an interest in the school teams!

Our thanks also go to Mrs Rae, who set up the chess club here in school 10 years ago. Mrs Rae has helped and supported the children over the last ten years, with great achievements; she has decided it is time to hand over the running of the club to others. We thank her for all her dedication, time and effort given to the club.

The Cricket team has done very well this year, winning through to the County Final, which takes place at Keswick on Friday 16 June, Good luck to them! Our thanks go to Andy Lee for continually supporting the children during the cricket season and giving up his spare time to come along and coach, train and umpire at events.

We thank all helpers, staff and children of the school who make our extra curricular programme one to be very proud of. Well done to you all!

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

To be published in October. Please submit articles and items of general interest to news@epic.gb.com by mid-September

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FARMING CRACK

Big changes are taking place here at Bailey Ground. By the time you read this our new bottling plant should be up and running, bottling our own home produced milk. It has been a very hard, difficult task to complete, frequently let down by suppliers.

David Moore retired from the milk at the beginning of March. Although it was sooner than we would have liked, with our plant not quite ready, we had no option but to take it on. The opportunity might not have arisen again. A big thank you to all who have stayed with us during the change-over. The service that the Moore family provided over all these years has been extremely difficult to follow. I apologise for any mistakes that we have made – most of them minor, some beyond our control. David and Caroline are still helping us to get the business running as smoothly as possible.

Kate's grandparents, Henry and Jane Moore, used to run a milk round in Seascale from the Howe Farm in the twenties and thirties before Henry's untimely death. In those days they delivered twice a day, milking the cows by hand and making their own butter and cheese. The surplus was taken to Whitehaven by horse and cart and sold on the market. It must have been some job. Delivery around the village was by horse and float. I have heard that there is an old post card or photograph with Henry and his float on it which I have been unable to find, but would love to see.

Henry was David Moore's grandfather Ernest's brother, so in a way the milk round business has been in the family for some considerable time.

We will be bottling our own milk produced here in the village by cows you can see grazing in nearby fields. You really cannot get fewer food miles than that. 'Food miles' is something that is talked about a lot these days (the distance that food travels from point of production to the consumer). Sometimes this involves hundreds or even thousands of miles, passing through several hands and using up all that unnecessary fuel and energy.

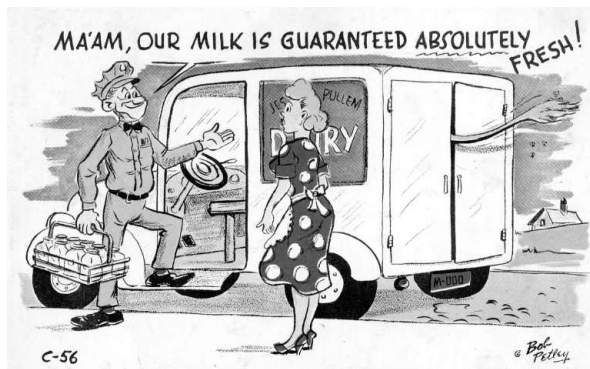
We have had several requests to deliver milk in the evening time, especially from those who are working all day: this is something we will be looking at. When we are up and running smoothly we plan to hold several open days when you will be able to come and see for yourselves milk coming straight from the cow to the bottling plant.

There used to be eight farms producing milk in Seascale, now we are the only one still doing it.

Notes left out for the milkman:

I have just had a youngster, can I have another one please?

Milkman please close the gate: the bluetits have been pecking the lids off the bottles again.



Wildlife

Last week while driving near Holmrook service station I swerved to avoid running over a grey squirrel sitting in the middle of the road. After all I have said about how they should be bumped off to protect the red ones, I cannot believe I did not run over it. A recent wildlife survey revealed that second only to the household cat, the grey squirrel is the biggest killer of small song birds,

not only robbing their nests of eggs and young but also killing the older birds as well. This is something that I did not know. All nests in trees will be easy targets for them.

I, along with lots of other people, are disappointed that BNFL should pick this time of year to cut down the woodlands they own in this area, slap bang in the middle of the nesting season. Why could this job not have been done in winter or at least after the end of the nesting season? There are not many wooded areas round Seascale suitable for nesting birds.

A friend, who owns a house near the golf course, recently had some broken windows replaced in his garage. This had been caused by stray golf balls. Investigating the reason why the swallows were going beserk he found that several of them had nested in the garage, so he removed one of the panes of glass to let them back in. It is nice to hear a story like that now and then.

There is an old farming saying, "When you own livestock, dead stock is never far away". Unfortunately this can prove to be true. The day the last newsletter came out containing the story

about our pet sheep Tracey that liked to live with the cows, we found her dead in the cattle shed, just days before she was due to give birth to her lambs; a heartbreaking sight.

Weather permitting...

Did you know that hourly updates of weather information, including pressure, temperature, wind speed/direction at St Bees Head are available on the web? Check it out here...

<http://www.meto.gov.uk/weather/europe/uk/obs/stbees.html>

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