SEASCALE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2007

PARISH NEWS

We reported in our last newsletter that our Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 25th April. Sadly, if it wasn't for our youngsters, their supporters and parents who want to build our new BMX site, it would have been a disappointing turn out.

We have lost four of our Parish Councillors – Bill Harvey, Colin Platt, Sue Allen and Barbara Ramsden – our thanks to them for all their hard work over the past years.

We welcome new Councillors John McElroy, Elaine Dickinson, Rodney Kimber and Keith Dowber.

We are still having problems with people leaving bags of rubbish around the recycling banks when they are full. It may be a nuisance to take it back home but you will be charged with fly-tipping if caught.

We welcome the village/beach clean organised for July; the Council have arranged for bags, gloves and pick up grabs to be available on the day – more information on page 5 of this newsletter.

We are still waiting for the date that work will start on the Villagate pavements and it looks like we are going to have another summer of struggling to find the owners of the grassed areas.

We are still going to present certificates for the best front gardens. The winners will be announced at the annual Seascale Horticultural Show.

The Neighbourhood Forum meeting was held in Seascale this May; we had a talk from Age Concern North, The Outreach Officer from Rural Greens Project. The speaker who sparked off a long debate was the Rail Officer for Cumbria County Council. These meetings are for you all; please watch notice boards for date and place of the next one.

We welcome everyone to our Council meetings once a month on the first Wednesday of the

month. This is your way of telling your Councillors what you would like to see in the village and what things you are worried about.

Eileen Eastwood. Chair of the Parish Council

Arch Hill Gardens

The garden is almost finished, but what we need now is a specimen tree to replace the one Copeland Borough Council gave the Parish Council, and which is not looking too good! The path is still to be laid – funding for it is in place – and more bulbs will be planted in the autumn.

We now have two more seats; one courtesy of Women's Outlook to celebrate 40 years and the other given by Miss Dorothy James in memory of her friend Miss Audrey Jackson.

I must now acknowledge all the people and companies who helped with funding:

BNFL: part funding of the hexagonal seat

Neighbourhood Forum: Grant awarded by Seascale & Bootle Neighbourhood Forum, and funded by Cumbria County Council and Copeland Borough Council.

Copeland Borough Council: part of the hexagonal seat, 48 trees and the money to get them all planted

Copeland Borough Council: for our tree and for the landscaping and the lovely daffodils

Seascale Parish Council: paying Copeland Borough Council for the landscaping

The Villagers: for extra bulbs and for planting all the bulbs, and those who donated shrubs to go round the substation

I hope many of you will sit on the seats and watch the world go by, or look at the sea, or maybe just sit and wait for your friends or relations to get off the train.

Barbara Ramsden

Digital is Nigh!

Digital TV is nearly upon us – only 3½ months to go.

17 October – 14 November

If you've any qualms about what do do for the switchover, come along to the

Digital Drop-in Seascale Methodist Hall Thursday 12 July, 9am – 5.30pm

and afterwards, from 7pm, at the

Neighborhood Forum Bootle

Up-to-date information about Whitehaven's switchover can be found at:

www.digitaluk.co.uk/whitehaven

A THANK YOU FROM BARBARA

After almost 14 years on Seascale Parish Council and 11 years as Chair to Amenities I have decided to retire, before I disappear under a mountain of gardening and sewing.

I would like to say thank you to all those people who have helped and supported me during this time. How many of you remember donating £4 towards a square foot of safety surfacing for the Coniston Avenue play area? It all seems a long time ago.

THE DELL WITH THOSE MAGNIFICENT STEPS

I would also like to thank all those anonymous people who keep the Dell steps free of soil, those who look after the stream and keep it clear of rubbish and vegetation, not forgetting our litter pickers who keep the Dell tidy.

I appreciate all the help I've had keeping the three play areas safe for children. The slide will always cause problems but I am sure the new Amenity committee will work hard and try to keep it going for as long as possible

Barbara Ramsden

Playing Field

At a recent Parish Council Meeting it was reported that some play equipment on Coniston Avenue needed repairing at a cost of over £1,500. We need feedback from villagers to tell us if they use it and if it is worth this expense.

Parish Plan

Have you any ideas on what improvements could be made to enhance the quality of life in the village? We would like your input on sensible suggestions.

Contacts are Parish Councillors:

Eileen Eastwood Ken Mawson, David Moore Bernard Dickinson Vicky Borrino, Andrew Woolass Rod Kimber Elaine Dickinson

Elaine Dickinson John McElroy Keith Dowber.

Seascale Annual Horticultural Show

Saturday 11 August 2007 At Seascale Primary School Starts 2.00pm

Schedules available from Seascale Library, Seascale Pharmacy, Seascale Post Office, or Mr F. Sloan, Lonnings, Cross Lanes, Seascale. Tel. 21847

Classes to include: Flowers, Fruit and Veg, Produce, Flower Arrangements,

Handicrafts and Children's Classes.



We would particularly like to encourage more children to enter this year, so please have a go – there are prizes for you to win!

Going to a wedding this summer?



Wedding bookings taken for 2008

Buttonholes, ladies' corsages, handbag sprays, wrist corsages

All made in fresh or silk flowers to accessorise the perfect outfit

Bouquets, baskets, arrangements, plants, giftware, balloons, gift vouchers



Local Delivery Service 019467 **21112**

13a Gosforth Road Seascale CA20 1PU

Seascale's Facilities. Update

In the Spring 2004 Newsletter we printed this list of facilities which Seascale enjoys:

A post office. A sports and social club. A doctor's surgery complete with nurses, physiotherapists, pharmacy, midwife, health visitor, visiting audiology clinic, asthma nurse and clinic, cardiovascular nurse, chiropodist and diabetes support. A library with internet access. A fire station. A pharmacy and greengrocer's store (including full rescue support for unexpected children's birthday invitations!). A Chinese takeaway. A Pizza takeaway. A hardware shop. A bank (without a cash machine! Hint! Hint!). Three churches. A golf club. Three hotels (one with civil licence for marriage). Bed and breakfast facilities. A hairdresser, A baker. A butcher. A beauticians. A newsagent and general store. A dentist. A local milkman. A good neighbourhood watch scheme. An excellent school with nursery. A playgroup. A breakfast club, after school clubs and groups. Residential

homes. A sports hall. A bowling green. Cricket and football pitches. Three play areas for children. Own First Responders team. An IT and conferencing centre which is host to groups and classes. Mobile hairdressers, meals on wheels, mobile butchers. A castle. Numerous halls and rooms to hire. Numerous clubs and groups to join. A yellow flagged beach.

Should you want to get away we have a railway. A bus service (occasionally!). A local taxi company. An annual Village Fun Day and the school has a Summer Fair each year. A parish council.

Sadly we have now lost three of those – the yellow flagged beach, the annual Fun Day, and the school Summer Fair. However, we have gained a florist and a fish and chip shop! We hope to be able to regain the Yellow Flag for the beach when we have been able to satisfy the new criteria.

Village and Beach Tidy-up Day

SATURDAY 7 JULY 2007 FROM 10AM

Meeting place: Village Car Park

Following on from Walk Cumbria we, the Methodist Church along with help from the other Churches, are organising a tidy-up day in the village this year. This fits in very nicely with the Church seeking eco-congregation registration. Additionally, the Rotary Club have offered to come along and lend a hand. However, to have a successful day we need YOU to help. Why not come along and help for as long or as short as you can. Copeland will be providing sacks and gloves and will remove the waste collected. The Parish Council, which has undertaken this job in the past, is very keen that we can say our beach is clean. The day is planned to fit in with the approaching summer holidays and we hope to have the Whitehaven News there, if possible, in order to publicise this to the wider community.

We shall be decorating the library window with a tidy-up theme, please take a look at it. We have asked the school to organise a poster competition the winning posters being displayed in the Library window. We plan to flood the village with the remaining posters so watch out for them!

Please put this date in your diary. Come at 10am but if this is difficult come whenever you can

Judy Hall

Ringing the Changes

Calder House Hotel has had great pleasure in hosting the Seascale and Calder House Funday, last year seeing the end of its successful five-year run. Many thousands of pounds have been raised for local charities thanks to your support in attending this yearly event. All good things come to an end and last year we went out on a high note feeling it was time for change.

So what have we this year? Not ONE but TWO great events for the summer – a spectacular Seaside Variety Show on Sunday 22 July followed by "A Day at the Races" on Saturday 18 August, both supporting local and regional charities.

Look out for the special two-page advertisement in this edition (pages 12 and 13) with details of our summer itinerary.

Are you wanting to advertise a community event, your group or local business? You can in the Wishing Well notice board located at the beach front car park. Contact or bring your poster to Calder House Hotel and have it displayed.

Many thanks

Steve Ainley, Proprietor



STEAM IN SEASCALE

Two steam excursions from Carnforth to Ravenglass are scheduled for July, with the trains passing through Seascale for turning and holding at Sellafield. The Cumbrian Coast Dalesman, hauled by the familiar LMS Class 8F 2-8-0 no. 48151, is likely to pass through Seascale around noon and 4pm on Saturdays 14 and 28 July. More precise timings can be found nearer the dates at www.kingfisherrailtours.co.uk or

Cumbrian Lodge Seascale

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Gosforth Rangers

As I am writing this piece, I am sitting in the sun at Burnmoor Tarn above Boot waiting for a group of six Rangers, all aged 14 and 15 and carrying all their camping equipment, to appear from the Miterdale valley. Another group of six are making their way along the path around the Esk estuary. All are bound for Fisherground campsite where they will be camping for the night before returning to Ravenglass by different routes tomorrow.

For several of these girls this will see the completion of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award – others have just a few more tasks to conquer. The girls have all undertaken some form of service too – helping with Brownies, Beavers, riding groups, first aid, swimming lessons and at after school clubs in local primary schools or as part of the organising committee of the Ranger unit. All have taken part in some type of physical activity – cycling, tennis, horse riding, swimming, badminton and netball – and a skill. In this area participation has been in music, patchwork, art, cross stitch and cooking.

Three of our older Rangers – Ruth, Hannah and Linda – completed their Bronze Awards last month and are due to receive them at a presentation in July – very well done girls.

The weekly meetings have been busy, much of the time recently being spent on preparing for the D of E expeditions. The Rangers also organised a brilliant Talent Competition for the Guides. At the moment they are planning their entry for the Gosforth Fun Run when they will be raising money for Charity and another item on the calendar is the Tesco race for life in Carlisle at the beginning of July.

I think I can hear the group – they must have found the boggy bit!

Sue Smith 28625

WINTER NEWSLETTER

To be published in November 2007. Please submit articles and items of general interest to news@epic.gb.com during October

Seascale 100 Club

Tickets for this draw to raise funds for the Community Development Centre and, as fund build up, other groups in the village are £1 per week (this can be paid for monthly or quarterly by cheque or direct debit). Prizes of £100, £50 and five of £10 are drawn monthly.

Please contact Jill Reece at Seascale Primary School on Seascale 21003 or 28403 for further details.

Playgroup

There are places available in the playgroup from September. It is held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings at the School. Up to two years old we require a parent/guardian to accompany each child; over two they can attend unaccompanied.

If you would like further information or to reserve a place for your child please contact Jill Reece at Seascale Primary School on Seascale 21003 or 28403



Open Mind (West Lakes U3A)

Open Mind (West lakes U3A), which is an organisation for people aged over 50 and have retired, will celebrate its 10th anniversary in September: its monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month in Gosforth Public Hall.

As part of the 10th anniversary there will be a talk by Corenza Lewis entitled 'My Life in and out of *Time Team* at Gosforth Public Hall on Friday 28 September at 10.15 for 10.45am. Tickets will be £3 for members and tickets will become available to non-members after the August meeting (16th) at £4.

Open Mind has a number of study groups two of which meet in Seascale: the History Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month and the Art Appreciation Group meets on the second Thursday of each month, both at St Joseph's church.

For more information contact John Hall (28542) or Joan Bell (28761).

Sports Hall News

The Sports Hall is being used on a regular basis. The bookings are being taken by Jen McClemens with backup by Eileen Eastwood.

Myrtle Harvey has decided to call it a day, after 20 years on the committee. We thank her for her work in the past.

It's with sadness we have to report that one of our longest-serving committee members, Allan Bell, died recently. He was a hardworking member and also ran the men's keep fit on Tuesday mornings. Our thoughts go to his wife Joan and his family.

We would welcome new committee members in order to carry on running the Sports Hall at the high standard we have always achieved.

Committee members are:

Jen McClemens 28201

Eileen Eastwood 28653 Bernard Dickinson 27288 Pat Kirkham 28929 Linda Platt 27335



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2nd Seascale Scout Group

Hopefully, by now, you'll have seen a number of items in the various media about the Centenary of Scouting, Items varying from Ian Hislop talking about Scouting for Boys (Yes, I still have a pre-war softback copy), to news clips about events going on, and there will be more to come. It all goes back to many of the devices one Major Robert Baden-Powell used to defend Mafeking during the Boer War, when subterfuge, team work and the ability to move stealthily through the natural world and survive in it resulted in the town surviving the siege. B-P realised that the methods he used were invaluable for youngsters, as well as being great fun, and collected his ideas and philosophy into a series of Yarns, which he published in Scouting for Boys. Much of his thinking is still relevant today, even if the language used is a bit dated. Many realised the value of the ideas, and persuaded him to put them into practice, leading to the first camp on Brownsea Island on 25 July to 9 August 1907. Thus started Scouting, from which followed Cubs, Guides, Brownies, Senior and Rover Scouts, Beavers and Rainbows, Senior & Rover Scouts were replaced by Venture Scouts in 1967, which in turn were replaced by Explorer Scouts and Scout Network in 2003. Scouting is now the biggest youth organisation world wide, and has been copied in a variety of formats – even by the likes of Hitler and Stalin! The centenary is being celebrated this year by a variety of events, including centenary camps, sunrise events and many other activities.

The first event was the District St George's parade, which was held at Seascale this year. The older members walked via the lanes from Cross Lanes via Panope to the beach, and met the younger members who had walked along the shore from the Castle, and then returned to St Cuthbert's Hall together to renew promises and share hot dogs. Despite the high tide and damp weather (the organisers – not from Seascale – assured us that they had checked the tide tables...) a good time was had by all.

The District Centenary Camp was supposed to take place over the May Bank Holiday weekend,

but was scuppered by a double booking! The result was a Beaver sleepover at Hensingham, and a Cub sleepover in the village sports hall that weekend. The Scout camp is at Coniston Hall towards the end of June. The Sunrise events are taking place on 1 August, with the aim of having a rolling promise renewal around the world at 8am local time. A Group of 'Older Scouts' plan to do this on the summit of Scafell Pike, but there will be at least two events in the District which are more accessible - one on St Bees Head and one in Egremont. There will then be an evening event in St Bees with music, food, promise renewals and reminiscences. Members who are away on holiday are encouraged to join an event near where they are, and we welcome any visitors to join our events.

The reason for the short Cub sleepover is that on the Monday morning they were off the Boreaton Park again, for a week at the PGL adventure site. That week went excellently – no accidents – and everyone had a great time.

We have had a few leadership changes this term – Ruth had to leave us suddenly for personal reasons. It would be nice if she were able to return some time in the future. Her place has been taken by Eve, who some of you will know from CDC. Eve is settling in well, and getting the Beavers out and about – visiting the Fire Station and working towards at IT badge at the CDC.

As we say goodbye to Peter, Astrid and Asher who are moving to New Zealand, we are very pleased to welcome Andrew who joins us from New Zealand, as a very experienced Scout Leader. Andrew is currently working at Harecroft Hall, and brings us a wealth of ideas.

We do rely entirely on volunteers giving up their time to run and help run sections. It can be very rewarding, and there is always room for more to help – both as leaders or assistant leaders in all sections, or as occasional helpers. We do need a rota of parents to ensure that there are always at least two adults present, and we are very grateful to the parents who have helped us out here – the more who can help, the easier it is for all.

Our collection of Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers has been very successful, given that we are about 35 miles away from a Sainsbury's – we currently

have over 900 vouchers, which should get us a collection of soft balls and some lanterns for camping. Unfortunately at around 11,000 vouchers, a tent is a bit out of our range – but you never know what next year might bring! Many thanks to everyone who helped us out with this.

Graham Worsnop, Group Scout Leader. 0845 0944 256

1st Gosforth Guides

At our meetings we have had a games night, a pink evening to raise money for breast cancer, a Mother's Day crafts evening, a patrol challenge evening and some of the Guides who are doing their Baden-Powell Challenge organised a Japanese-themed evening with lots of rice, chopsticks and paper folding!

At the end of the term, the Rangers organised a talent competition for the guides who excelled themselves – singing, music, dancing, gymnastics, jokes – it was a wonderful evening which was well supported by parents. The Rangers raised almost £200 at this event.

The Guides have enjoyed two overnight trips. The first was to Santon Bridge Village Hall with the younger Guides, which provided a good opportunity for our newer members to get to know each other. A great time was had playing wide games in the local wood and cooking on open fires in the car park at the hall. The following weekend the older Guides went to Wastwater Youth Hostel where they took part in night orienteering and then the following day practised their navigation on the local footpaths. Before going home they cooked their lunch on Trangias (stoves) in the Youth Hostel grounds at the side of the lake.

As the warmer weather has arrived we have enjoyed a belated Easter Egg Hunt at Drigg beach. The girls found around a hundred eggs before we walked back to Seascale along the beach. Several girls then chose to make their Promises on the jetty at Seascale before jumping off into the pool of water below – well, we do encourage them to make this an occasion that they will remember!

A group of local Brownies, Guides, Leaders and some parents recently travelled to Notts Forest

Football Club to watch the Women's FA Cup Final, Arsenal v Charlton Athletic. The whole event was sponsored by E-on which provided 62 coaches to give free transport to spectators from all over the country. It was an excellent day out.

We are looking forward to our Annual Beach BBQ and the Gosforth Fun Run as well as our annual camp at the end of the summer term. This year we are going to Branthwaite Scout Campsite near Workington.

We have a number of girls working on their Baden Powell Challenge Award. This is the highest award that a Guide can achieve and we would like to congratulate Lauren on completing hers. She has now attended an adventure celebration weekend to Manchester.

Finally our Guide Leader, Sue Smith, has just been awarded her Laurel Award. This is presented to Guiders who are considered to have given outstanding service to guiding. She was left speechless as the Commissioner for North West England presented the award to her at a recent County event. She has also just taken on the role of County Commissioner and we wish her every success as we know she will really enjoy the challenges that this brings.

Sue Webb – Assistant Guide Leader

Local Guiding

I have now completed my five years as a local Commissioner for Girlguiding and would like to thank the local Guiders for all their support. They have been a pleasure to work with, all running excellent units and giving the girls plenty of opportunities to try out new activities.

I am delighted to say that Julie Dickinson has agreed to take on the role and I hope that she enjoys her time as much as I have. Julie has 'come through' the Guiding system, is a trained Brownie Leader and will already be known to many of you in the village. Good Luck Julie.

Girlguiding would also like to take the opportunity to wish all members of Scouting locally all the best for their Centenary. We shall be thinking of you throughout your celebrations. Good luck and have fun!

ONE VENUE



The Entertainment Event of the Summer

Sunday 22 Jul y

A Seaside Variety Show Spectacular

in the Starlight Marquee

Featuring a host of local talent

The Karen Starkey Showgirls

SOLO ARTISTS

Comedy Magic

"The Great Ribena"

Songs from the Shows

Compèred by Charles Maudling

TICKETS £15 inclusive of Pie & Pea Supper Doors open 7pm · Supper 7.30pm

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The Coming of the Railway

The first step in the change of Seascale from a sleepy country hamlet into the modern village that we have today occurred when the powers that be decided to build a railway running from Whitehaven to the Furness peninsula at Broughton where it would connect with the Furness Railway. This was needed to connect West Cumberland into the national rail network. The Whitehaven & Furness

Junction Railway was formed, in 1847, to fill that need. The first train arrived in Seascale on the first day of June, 1849.

Seascale had been chosen to have a station to service the village of Gosforth and the Wasdale valley, and Drigg station to Service Drigg, Holmrook and the Eskdale valley.

In preparation for the Railway there had always been land speculation in the hopes of making a profit selling land to the Railway companies. Seascale was to be no different to the rest of the Country. The obvious route for the new line to take was along the coast, thus avoiding all the hills and thereby reducing the cost of building the line. The land alongside the sea coast in the vicinity of Seascale had always been the Common land belonging to the Manor of Seascale. The Commons in times gone bye was the land that was set aside for the use of all the fami-

lies living in the Manor. It provided land for people both to grow crops to feed their family as well as provide summer grazing for both sheep and cattle. In Seascale Manor there was Common land along the sea shore, whilst on the land on the east side of the lonning running from

Hallsenna/Panope and the land now making up Acrelands farm, there were other plots. For a period of time (1750-1800) before the arrival of

Moffats corner to

the railway there had been a move to sell off the common land to the then residents of the Manor. This would have increased the size of the farms and a committee of three wise men was appointed from adjacent Manors to divide up the Commons in the most efficient way possible for the local residents. So at the time of the Railway coming the Seascales commons was privately owned and hence available for a slice of land speculation. Looking at the list of people who sold to the Railway Company you can see that a number of people with local connections had been buying land along the route of the railway.

The local landowners such as the Senhouses and Stewards and their relatives are to be found there along with the Sherwens of Seascale How and their several families, the Porters of Black how and Bailey Ground, Walker of Lane head, Leech of Townend and the Leech family of Whitriggs. The full list includes 35 people involved in the sale of land to the Whitehaven & Furness Junction Railway from within the Manor



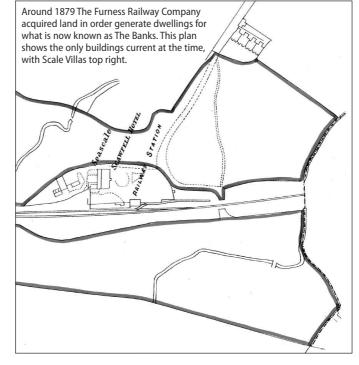


Furness Railway No. 3 Locomotive – "Coppernob" – was one of a set of four locomotives built by Bury, Curtis & Kennedy of Liverpool at the time when the Furness Railway was formed. Locomotives Nos. 1 & 2 were built in 1844, and Nos. 3 & 4 were built in 1846.

visitors. The most important of these was John Tyson (1794-1860), a grocer from Gosforth, who seized the opportunity of providing a service for the rail passengers and built the late lamented Scawfell Hotel alongside the railway line; a decision that was regretted later by the Furness Railway Company. Alongside this Tyson was a William H. Tyson also of Gosforth, a different Tyson family, who was a local stone mason/builder who worked on the Scawfell and built the row of houses known as Scale Villas.

The Railway Company had to ensure that they did not block any existing rights of way between the land and the shore. This is the reason that we find today the various underpasses along the line of the railway track, the most well known being Marble Arch which is the underpass between the Dell and the foreshore This footpath was originally one of three cattle creeps that existed pre-railways that gave the local farmers access to the foreshore The others can be seen if vou walk the cinder track towards the Factory.

As well as seeing opportunities to profit from the Railway others saw opportunities in catering for the





Furness Railway No. 123, which was built in 1890 by Sharp Stewart & Co Limited.

These houses were originally intended for what we call today, summer holiday lets. They were hired out to a visiting family for the summer season. A family would come to the seaside for the summer, along with their servants, whilst father stopped behind in the city – but visiting his family for long weekends. The same mason/builder also built houses on The Crescent and South Parade

Brownie News

We have been very busy recently, so busy in fact that we didn't have time to write the 'News' for the last issue of 'Seascale News'.

As usual our weekly meetings have been full of fun and packed with exciting activities.

Most of the Brownies have now completed their *Out and About* badge. After a visit from four of the *Walk Cumbria Team*, we are now working towards our *Faith Awareness Badge*.

However, the main theme for the last few meetings has been 'Winnie the Pooh', in preparation for our annual Pack Holiday, which was held this year in One Hundred Acre Wood (Ennerdale). It was a brilliant weekend — although the weather was mixed it didn't dampen our enthusiasm. We went on a treasure hunt, followed trails, produced various works of art and made some very impressive Tie Dye Tee Shirts. The traditional Wide Game, organised by Sarah and Laura Huddleston, was one of the best ever. On the Saturday we collected wood for our camp fire and the evening was spent singing campfire songs and drinking hot chocolate with marshmallows — mouth watering!

Next half term is equally action-packed. We have a visit to the Wasdale Mountain Rescue HQ which has always proved popular, are taking part in the Cheeky Monkey Challenge and 'Rapunzel' is coming along on the 19 June to show us how to make stunning flower arrangements ready for Father's Day!

So from 2nd Seascale Methodist Brownies ... Bye!

FIREWOOD FOR SALE



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PHONE MARTIN WILLEY ON O1229 717171

Please Have Your Cats Neutered

I am appealing to all cat owners to please have your cat(s) neutered, unless you are prepared to keep the kittens that your female (queen) cat will produce, or find good homes for them, which could be very difficult as your cat could have three litters a year with up to six kittens in a litter. Every year Cats' Protection has to find homes for over 75,000 unwanted cats and kittens. It is a very great problem, and is due to the irresponsibility of many cat owners. Many of these cats will be wandering the streets or countryside, homeless, unloved and hungry.

Male cats (Toms) that are unneutered may disappear for weeks, seeking a mate, and can end up killed on the road or with loss of an eye, torn ears, abscesses or a viral disease transmitted from the bite of an infected cat. Neutered Toms do not get fat unless they are overfed; they stay nearer home and do not lose their hunting instincts.

So be a responsible cat owner, have your cat neutered.

If you are unemployed, on benefit or a very low income you may qualify for help towards the cost of neutering from Cats' Protection.

For more information contact me on 019467 23344. Pat Cox

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

Monday 1300-1800 Tuesday 1000-1230 Wednesday 1300-1800 Thursday 1000-1230 Friday 1300-1700 Saturday 0930-1230

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

The expected rate is £10 for a quarterpage, and pro-rata for larger advertisements.

Contact: Eileen Eastwood on 28653.



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All that Jazz!

Calder House Hotel hosts a Jazz Jam Session every third Friday of the momth, commencing at 8.30pm. It's an in informal night of music with amateur and professional musicians from the county and beyond.

Admission is free.

Digital TV: Gosforth and Whitehaven

With less than four months to go before our terrestrial TV service changes to digital transmissions there still seems to be much discussion over what and what will not be happening and which equipment will or will not work.

www.digitaluk.co.uk/whitehaven carries up-to-date information.

DigitalUK will be in Seascale Methodist Hall Thursday 12 July from 9:00 am until 5:00pm and afterwards they will be going to the Neighbourhood Forum in Bootle.

They will be able to advise on the equipment you require and any help you may benefit from.

It is hoped by then that the upgrade work on the Gosforth transmitter will be complete, so that the option of using that source will be verified. Unfortunately it won't be a simple matter of retuning your TV. To access this service you will need a different aerial.

When we move to the critical stage of having equipment installed it is extremely important to remember that unless you have arranged for someone to carry out work, you should not have anyone cold calling at your door or on the telephone. Our Neighbourhood Watch is aware of the program.

Please be aware of the equipment required and don't let anyone into your house that you're not absolutely sure of. The DigitalUK drop in on the 12th July and other events are there to help. Please make use of them.





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Walk Cumbria

Walk Cumbria, at the end of April and beginning of May, was a mission supported by all three churches in the village – there must be few in the village who didn't see some of the Walkers in their blue T-shirts with the Walk Cumbria logo. We are aware of some positive consequences but there may be many results that may take time to reveal themselves. We are most thankful to the businesses in Seascale which gave generously in support and also to the organisations in the village which welcomed the Walkers.

As part of their door-to-door work the Walkers carried out a belief survey. A summary of the results is below.

What do you believe about God?

The top answer was 'close', 32% and the second was 'a force', 20%

What do you believe happens at the end of our

The most frequent response was ,'I'm not sure,'

25% followed by 'some people go to heaven but others to hell' 21%

What do you believe about Jesus?

The top answers were 'he was the only Son of God', 49%; he was a prophet or messenger from God. 26.9%.

If you could ask God, or someone who believes in God, one question, what would it be?

The most frequent answer was 'why is there so much suffering in the world?' 53%.

If you could know God personally, have a relationship with Him, would you be interested? Yes, 52%; not sure, 27%.

Having worked together for Walk Cumbria, the churches in the village are again working together to lead a beach and village tidy-up on Saturday 7 July. You'll find more details in another item in this Newsletter on page 5.

John Hall



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The Council of British Archaeology has much to do in Cumbria

Clifford Jones - Seascale resident, professional Archaeologist and Board Member & Trustee of CBA (North) provides a brief insight into what's going on in archaeology in Cumbria.

You can sum Cumbria up as being a very large county with considerable archaeological diversity, some very committed archaeological and historical groups, and all set in a grand landscape but with little or no infrastructure.

Over the coming months and years CBA North will be encouraging more people to get involved in the CBA and its activities and act as conduit for information and guidance. In Cumbria the role of information channel cannot be emphasised enough. There is a great deal going on and so there is a need for societies and communities to gain a better understanding of heritage developments that are shaping their futures based on their past.

The development of the West Cumbrian part of the Hadrianic frontier, Bowness on Solway to Ravenglass, by Hadrian's Wall Heritage Limited is a case in point. Whilst public and community approval is required for establishing better facilities at key locations along the frontier, the lack of official support for community involvement was recently highlighted by English Heritage when they rejected claims that the western edge of the Roman fort at Ravenglass was washing into the sea. The Ravenglass citizenry quite rightly know better and I fear that the disillusionment will run deep. And whilst Cumbria has poor infrastructure it does have an excellent bush telegraph; such actions and events have their consequences.

Fortunately the past has a tendency of giving the great and the good a revelation when they least expect it – a recent trial excavation at Drigg revealed the site of a small Roman fort protecting a ford over the river Irt, and clear indications of watchtower enclosures between Carleton and Seascale provide (potentially) the first-ever

evidence of a formal frontier defence system south of Whitehaven. More on this will be revealed as the excavation programme develops.

Much good work is currently being undertaken by the Lake District National Park Archaeology Unit, with John Hodgson and his happy band busy with projects throughout the Park, supporting community involvement. The Duddon Historical Society should be digging while I type – they are excavating this summer after a further survey of the upper Duddon valley; likewise the Eskdale Historical Society will be continuing its work in respect of bloomeries and Roman tile kiln sites.

The Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society continues to supply a vital lifeline of events and meetings throughout the county. Join them – there is a wealth of experience to be gained – they need some young blood. Like all societies they are doing their best to encourage a wide diversified membership, because that's how to flourish. Likewise, at Maryport the Friends of Senhouse Museum are doing their very best to provide a service to the public and community.

Practical excavation techniques for beginners are being offered by Lancaster University, Dept. of Continuing Education; The CBA is providing a raft of events for national Archaeology Week (see their website for details – there is a section for Cumbria), including a guided walk of Ravenglass fort and vicus.

It's encouraging to be able to list just a few of the organisations doing their bit for Cumbria; the CBA's challenge is to be of practical assistance to these groups and communities when required, so if the CBA can be of assistance, just ask.

Get involved – join the CBA.

Clifford Jones BA Hons CBA North Cumbria wtecp@hotmail.co.uk

CBA website: britarch.ac.uk

FARMING CRACK

t the time of writing this article, at the beginning of June, the weather is perfect for hay and silage making. Hot sun and a nice breeze combined with bumper crops – it couldn't be better. Walking up the lanes the other night all you could smell was new mown hay and wild honeysuckle – though not quite so good if you suffer from hay fever!

Some of the shrewder agricultural experts are now forecasting a coming world food shortage. All the food mountains in the EEC are gone. They are basing their predictions on the following points:

- 1) The change in weather caused by the earth's warming lots of droughts are now to be expected causing a world-wide water shortage. This is already happening in Australia where they are experiencing their worst drought for over a hundred years. Farmers are having to shoot their animals to save them from further suffering, having nothing to eat or drink. Water used for irrigating crops has been cut by 80%. If no there's no improvement next year it will be cut off altogether.
- 2) Biofuels large areas of land in Europe and the USA are now being used to grow crops for fuel oilseed rape, sugar beet, wheat and especially maize are being transferred from human and cattle food production to power stations and refineries. Areas of land used for this are expected to quadruple in the next ten years. This has already caused a sharp increase in cattle food prices. Anything made from flour or maize will surely follow suit.

From 1 June some farmers will receive 0.3p more per litre for their milk, but from 1 June all cattle food prices go up by £18 per tonne as a result of the shortage.

3) The rise in world population – developing countries are importing more and more food to feed the growing numbers.

4) In this country and Europe the governments have just introduced a new way of paying subsidies to farmers, changing from the amount of food they produce to the amount of land that you manage to set environmental standards. This has resulted in a reduction of the amount of food produced (not a good time for this to be happening). In some areas they are still paying arable farmers for not growing anything on part of their farms – this is called 'set aside' and was introduced when there was a big surplus of food. It is time this was stopped. It takes a long time for farmers to change their methods – in dairy and beef farming it takes at least three years for a calf to be born and reared to produce beef or milk. Arable farmers take at least a year to change.

Wild life

Every time at this time of year – April, May, June – you see people cutting down trees and hedges in their gardens. I know they have to be trimmed back occasionally but why oh why do they do it in springtime when all the birds are nesting? Farmers have a statutory obligation not to do this sort of work during the breeding season – surely this should also apply to private gardeners.

A friend of mine was telling me today that a robin has been using a small hole in her porch roof to make its nest. It is now rearing its young and what tremendous pleasure she has enjoyed. The robin has been going in the house to get food, even raiding the cat's dish! The repairs to the roof have now been put on hold permanently in case the robin comes back next year. A lady from Drigg had a swallow nest in her porch late last year, when it and its young were killed by a rat or a cat. This year a single swallow has come back and she is convinced it is the mate of the one that was killed, coming back to look for it, as swallows come back to the same place every year.

One good thing this year – there seems to have

Dad – don't hesitate! Grab the grape...

been an explosion in the blackbird population.
Going around with the milk in the morning

I can see dozens of them, pecking away on all the lawns. They must consume a large number of grubs each day which has to be a good thing! Some people have even been woken early in the morning, about 5am, by the noise of them singing – what a chorus! Also they can be heard late in the evening, singing away.

At this time of year you see lots of bats flying around the village, generally late evening just before dark. I often wonder where they live – I have never seen them going in and out of any buildings. If you have I would be interested to know.

Wildlife experts have given warnings that the number of wasps and hornets will be high this year, as more queens have survived the mild winter than normal (only the queens can survive the winter).

A record number of adders, Britain's only poisonous snake, have been seen around the village this year. They live on rough ground and usually get out of your way when you approach them. They like to curl up and bask in the sun and go underground when the weather's dull. Make sure your children know what they look like – there is a picture on the Wishing Well notice board by the beach front car park.

It's great to see that the swifts are back again — they are one of the most beautiful birds. But a swarm of jackdaws is still in the village — noisy darn things! It's very amusing to see them standing under the sprinkler on the cricket field!

When delivering milk in the village at the same time each morning, we see the same people. One lady who regularly walks a little terrier told me Too late – Mum wins the day!



painted on the van – it probably thought, when the van was moving, it could chase them!

Note for the milkman – sorry I haven't paid you before now – my wife had a baby three weeks ago and I have been carrying it around in my pocket ever since.

Bowling Friday night 6pm – 8pm – no-one has turned up yet for these starter sessions – all are welcome so if you think you'd like a go please come along.

Ken Mawson

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