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Saturday and later appointments at request	

PARISH NEWS

Publisher: Trevor Preece
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Seascale,
Cumbria CA20 1QU

SEASCALE

As I write this we are now over 12 months into a pandemic that has turned our lives upside down in ways we could never have anticipated. Although it is a tragic event it was heartening to see how quickly local communities rallied round. On both a formal and informal level support mechanisms quickly sprang into life that helped to make people in needs' lives at least a little more manageable and tolerable.

I am pleased to say that the Seascale Parish Council has managed to keep functioning through the mechanism of holding our meetings virtually. These are certainly a poor substitute for 'face to face' meetings but are preferable to the alternative, which is to do nothing. Following the co-option of Paula Leggett as a Councillor our Council now has a majority of female members, plus our age profile is one of the lowest in the County. So we are far from being the stereotype of 'grey middle aged men in suits' that people tend to associate with Parish Councils. An exciting development is the creation of our Facebook page and I would encourage residents to use it as a way of keeping in touch with what the Council is doing.

The pandemic has forced us to put our plans to develop the Library into a community hub in suspended animation for the time being. It was particularly frustrating to have to close the Library after a successful initial 7 months when we were starting to build momentum and I thank the volunteers for their commitment to the project.

However, we did manage to move forward on the Coniston Avenue play area, which is being well used and the letters of thanks we have received are an indication that this has been appreciated by residents. The Beach Play Park area continues to be popular and has provided a necessary release valve for children and parents alike during lockdown.

As we start to emerge from lockdown we can anticipate a large influx of visitors. While we may not have such extreme instances of littering, wild camping, inconsiderate parking etc. as the main tourist centres in the central Lakes nonetheless this will bring its challenges. We often receive compliments from visitors about the quality of our facilities, particularly the clean and free toilets. The Council expresses its gratitude to those who have already volunteered to help with collecting litter and generally keeping the village looking welcoming and appealing for our visitors.

As we emerge from lockdown we face a period of uncertainty but in the knowledge that a return to a more normal lifestyle is on its way.

David Halliday – Chairman, Seascale Parish Council

Gosforth

A Community Led Plan for Gosforth – Have your Say!

It makes a nice change to be talking about something other than COVID.

We have all had plenty of time to reflect on things in the last 12 months. Being mainly restricted to staying local, we will all have spent more time than usual within the Parish, often discovering new areas or rediscovering walks that you've not had time to do for a long time. What have you noticed? Are you happy with the appearance of the village and surrounding area? Is there anything that can be improved and introduced that would be beneficial to the area and community? I'm sure we all have views one way or another. Well the good news is that there is an opportunity to have your say and help change things for the better. The Parish Council is helping to 'kick-start' what is known as a Community Led Plan. We will start by asking some very basic questions by various means to ensure everyone has an opportunity to engage and have

their say. This will give an indication as to what is on peoples' minds and influence how the process will continue to develop the plan. We will then be looking at the community to take the lead in pulling together a plan that sets out what we as a community want to achieve in the next few years. I want to make it very clear that this is not a Parish Council document created by the Parish Council. Our role is to assist and facilitate where necessary, but a Community Led Plan will only work if driven by and from within community.

In the coming months you will see the first information coming out. Please respond openly and honestly. We need volunteers to generate the plan so if you wish to get involved, please contact the Parish Council who will provide you with more information. Contact details can be found on our website or in the table below.

*Best wishes, Mark Fussell
Chair – Gosforth Parish Council*

PARISH COUNCILLORS & CONTACT DETAILS

DRIGG & CARLETON

John Jennings (Chair) 24321
Andy Pratt (Vice-Chair) 24097
Suey Browne
Keith Hitchen 24710
Howard Lace
Jimmy Naylor 27841
Keith Murray
Clerk
David Millington 24272
Financial Officer (RFO)
Justine Robinson
CBC Councillor
Andy Pratt 24097
County Councillor
Keith Hitchen 24710

www.drigg.org.uk
Take a look at the new website

D&C PC meet at 7pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, except Aug. & Dec. Drigg Village Hall

GOSFORTH

Mark Fussell (Chair)
Rachel Unsworth (Vice-Chair)
David Ancell
David Gray
Graham Hutson
Mike McKinley
Tyson Norman
Dawn Pennington
Paul Turner 07795 169637
Clerk
Jacqueline Williams 01229 717551
gosforth.parish2@outlook.com
County Councillor
Paul Turner 07795 169637

www.gosforthpc.org.uk

Second Wednesday of each month at 7pm (online)

SEASCALE

David Halliday (Chair) 28027
Elizabeth Mawson (Vice-Chair)
Eileen Eastwood
Catherine Harvey-Chadwick 28908
Paula Leggett 074621 60313
David Moore 27674
Ken Mawson 29786
David Ritson 21668
Julie Savage
Clerk
Jill Bush
clerkseascalepc@gmail.com
Copeland District Councillors
David Moore
Andy Pratt 24097
County Councillor
Paul Turner 07795 169637

www.seascaleparish.com
First Wednesday of the month, except Aug., 7pm, currently in the Methodist Church Hall, then in the Library as soon as is possible.

STRONGER AND TOGETHER – TRUDY FORESEES

As I write, the sun shines brightly into my train carriage, the signs of Spring are abundant, and I say goodbye to London for another week. All the talk seems to be about ‘nudging’ towards normality. Optimism is abound as family and friends reconnect, businesses reopen and cautiously, but hopefully irreversibly, we remove the restrictions upon our society.

Of course, this is only possible thanks to the incredible efforts of vaccine teams across the entire country and as I turned 45 earlier this week, I’m looking forward to my job, playing my small part in the greatest team effort of our nation. I would like to thank all those working at our local health centre in Seascale who have worked incredibly hard over the past few weeks to meet the national targets of vaccinating all those over 50 by mid-April.

It’s also been a pleasure to see my old school (Seascale Primary) re-emerge so modern and complete with classrooms with immediate access to the outdoors. I look forward to visiting soon, though I know it will be tinged with some sadness to have lost that wonderful, parquet floored hall where I have fond memories of plays (Hansel and Gretel circa 1984, a particular favourite) and school assemblies. I have less fond memories of the particularly chilly outdoor pool and swimming galas.

Talking of construction progress, seeing so many people enjoy the Viking Way has just filled my heart with joy, especially over the last year. I was privileged to be part of the community led team, working with Seascale and Gosforth’s local leaders between 2010 and 2013 and had every confidence it would be a real success. Connecting communities is very important but creating confident communities with ‘can do’ people who know their area, who are willing to give up their time to champion change is even more vital. I remain utterly committed in helping anyone or any group in effecting positive change in their community and I look forward to getting back into village halls to meet with so many of you once again, to hear about your plans.

At the other end of the Viking Way, as the Vikings made their discovery of Mid Copeland,

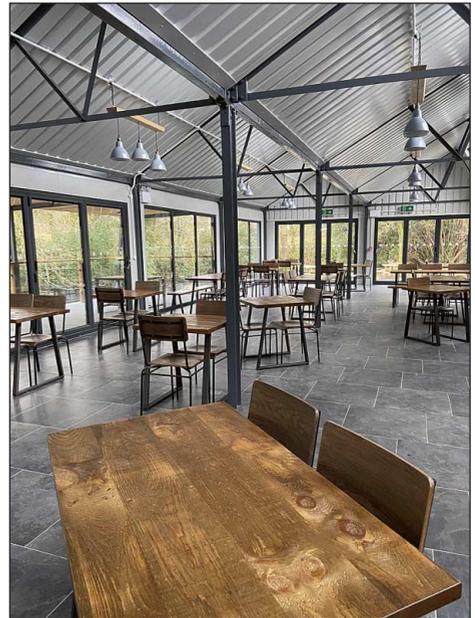
there’s further progress to be found. What a fantastic addition the Sawmill is to Nether Wasdale. It was a delight to meet with Party Chairman Amanda Milling over a socially distanced afternoon tea late last year. For me, the combination of delicious homemade food, the River Irt running by, the sensitive and tasteful architectural and interiors choices and fabulous fell bred Herdwick meat on sale is just perfection. An outstanding landscape and perhaps the opportunity to get the canoe out on Wastwater adds to the appeal.

This last year has surely made us all realise just how fortunate we are to call Copeland home. Sandwiched between mountains and coastline, blessed with nature and nice people, where community spirit spills out to help and support, in generous quantity.

As we regain our freedoms, I’m confident that with the Prime Minister’s drive and determination coupled with an optimism to rival my own, we will build back better and communities like ours will build back stronger, together too.

Trudy Harrison, MP

The Sawmill’s table seating – ready for folk...





A BIG INVESTMENT INTO A LOCAL TREASURE

I don't know about you, but I'm ready for some good news, and that's just what I got when I met up with Steve Cottrell at Irton Hall. He's been extremely busy during lockdown, investing across all of his businesses.

You may have seen the collection of skips residing outside the Bridge Inn at Santon Bridge for months. That's because Steve has taken the opportunity to make some necessary improvements to the Inn while there've been no customers.

I found Steve in his usual optimistic mood at

Irton Hall: "We were hoping to be finished with the refurbishment of the Bridge Inn at the end of March," Steve shrugged, "but we found asbestos in the ceiling, so that put us back a few weeks."

Steve continued: "We decided to extend the bar into the function room because that room doesn't get much use. Any functions can happen in the Grey Lady at Irton Hall, which is bigger."

In the new bar area, Steve is putting in two tall windows that overlook the river and will bring in lots of light. "There will be nice booths, like the ones in the original bar area, which will help with



social distancing, as I guess customers will still be thinking along these lines after the lockdown is opened up.”

Steve is really thinking of how to make his customers as comfortable as possible, with new super-fast fibre broadband and Wi-Fi throughout the pub, including all the guest bedrooms that are also undergoing extensive renovations. I remember sitting in the dining room years ago and water dripping on my head from a bedroom above. Steve recalled: “I know! We were always fire-fighting problems like that, so it’s great to be able to completely renovate all the rooms.”

The new dining room will include a roof lantern to let in more light, and with new carpeting and



soft furnishings throughout the dining room and bars, and there will be a warm, coherent flow, with easy wheelchair access. “There won’t be much change to the original bar area, as this area will retain its characterful history that I feel is so important for the Inn,” Steve assured me and continued full of enthusiasm.

“Outside there will also be new signage and external lighting, more seating areas and a sunken garden terrace with furnishings and festoon lighting under large canvas canopies and outside heaters,” said Steve, who was clearly rightly proud of his renovation plans.

“We have just heard back from the planners that we can replace the old timber window frames with new white PVC, so I’m thrilled about that,” Steve laughed. I certainly remember the old windows being a bit draughty when sitting too close to them!

Don’t think Steve is finished yet! Oh no – this guy is on a roll! His Phase Two Master Plan for the Bridge Inn is to create six self-catering apartments where the old barn stands now, and thirteen glamping pods with a service block, on adjacent land. “I fear this application is going to take longer to get through, but I’ve got the time,” he said. Steve is no stranger to the whimsical nature of the planning office.

“All this will create lots of new jobs and bring more tourists to the area, which is good for all the local businesses.” Steve continued. “The only real change will be that the World’s Biggest Liar competition will take place in the Grey Lady



► Room at Irton Hall this year instead of the Bridge Inn. The competition committee readily agreed to the change because it means the event can be even bigger.”

One thing lacking at the Bridge Inn was ground floor accommodation for disabled guests. “It always bothered me that we could not accommodate these clients, but now I have remedied that by taking some space off the old function room, now the bar, to create two lovely ground-floor apartments.”

By the time it’s all done, and the dust has settled, Steve estimates it will have cost close to half a million pounds. “We are on course to be ready for when all the restrictions are lifted on the 17th of May.”

As if all that wasn’t enough, at Irton Hall Steve is also in the middle of building another self-catering cottage on the site of a derelict building next to the Grey Lady. “It is cedar-clad, the same as the other cottages on the estate, but because this cottage is more exposed to the wind, we used slate on the roof instead of shingles.” Steve said. “But this won’t be finished until next spring now. All efforts are concentrated on getting the Bridge Inn ready for when we can open up on the 17th of May.”

I’ve always loved the Bridge Inn and know I’m going to love it even more after her major facelift. Mine’s a brandy and dry please Steve...

Vivienne Tregidga



A plaque adorning the front wall of the Bridge Inn. This competition will be moving to the Grey Lady.

A “before” view of the dining area prior to the new look on the previous page.





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- Improved external lighting to remainder of pub, plus improved signage
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- Additional 1st floor single bedroom
- Two new ground-floor bedrooms for disabled use



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EVENTS CALENDAR

in and around Drigg, Gosforth & Seascale
THE USUAL LISTING ALAS IS ON
HOLD UNTIL EVENTS ARE FREED UP

GADS DATES FROM JUNE TO OCTOBER 2021

All dates are "Covid permitting"

GADS Youth Theatre Group, 7pm Thursdays, Gosforth Public Hall
10 Jun, 17 Jun, 24 Jun, 1 Jul, 8 Jul, 15 Jul

GADS Summer Youth Workshop. 10am - 4pm. Gosforth Public Hall
Mon 2 Aug to Sat 7 Aug

GADS Youth Theatre Group, 7pm Thursdays. Gosforth Public Hall
2 Sep, 9 Sep, 16 Sep, 23 Sep, 30 Sep, 7 Oct

GADS Autumn Play. 7:30pm. Gosforth Public Hall
Thu 14 Oct, Fri 15 Oct, Sat 16 Oct

GADS Youth Theatre Group, 7pm, Thursday. Gosforth Public Hall
21 Oct

SEASCALE NSPCC HAS TO CLOSE

It is with regret we have decided to end the committee of the NSPCC here in Seascale. The committee has been going many years so it was a very hard decision to make. We sincerely thank our loyal supporters who have come to all our events and helped us raise over £41,000 of which every penny has helped children in West Cumbria. I took over as chairperson in 1990 and would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all committee members past and present for all their hard work, support and encouragement they have given me. I could not have done it without you.

Joyce Roberts
joysyd44@icloud.com



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REGULAR EVENTS

Please check with contacts for any of these entries to find out if they are still happening

- Badminton – Seascale.** Ladies Wednesdays from 6pm. Mixed Thursdays 7pm. Beginners very welcome. Seascale Sports Hall. Details from 019467 28435
- Blengdale Runners.** First Tuesday each month from Gosforth Car Park at 9.30am; other Tuesdays from Seascale Car Park. Absolute beginners welcome – we will train you up to run 5k or further... eventually. If there are no races or events we sometimes run from Seascale beach at 9.30 on Sundays too.
- Depression Support Group.** Day Centre, Bradbury House, Gosforth. Third Tuesday every month at 7.30pm.
- Depression Support Group.** Bailey Ground ice cream parlour, Seascale. First Tuesday morning each month 10.30am-12.00noon.
- Drigg Young Farmers.** Tuesday nights, 7.30-9pm in the Methodist Hall at Gosforth. Membership age = 10-26 years. If you would like to join or find out more about Drigg Young Farmers please contact us on the club mobile 074961 26771 or email driggycf@yahoo.co.uk
- Fishing Club.** Holmrook Reading Room. Contact David on 24632 for details or to join.
- Fitness Classes.** Tuesdays 6-7pm, Seascale Sports Hall. Tuesdays 7.30-8.20pm Beckermet School. Thursdays 7.15-8.05pm Kettlercise, Seascale School. £4 a class. Contact Gill 07511 995184.
- Flo Jazz.** Third Friday every month, Florence Mine Art Centre, Egremont. 7.30pm for 8pm start. All welcome to listen or contribute.
- Freestyle Fitness Yoga.** Tuesdays 6pm. Gosforth School. £4 each.
- Gardening Club.** Holmrook Reading Room. Contact Henry Stewart on 24652 for details or to join.
- Gosforth and District Art Society.** In Gosforth. Every Monday but with breaks for Easter, summer and Christmas. 6.30-8.30pm, Gosforth Village School. Contact Marlene Partridge. marlene.partridge@btinternet.com
- Gosforth and District Art Society.** In Seascale. Every Thursday morning 10am to 12am in Seascale Methodist School Room but with breaks for Easter, summer and Christmas. Contact Marlene Partridge. at marlene.partridge@btinternet.com
- Gosforth Brownies (2nd Gosforth).** For girls aged 7-10. Meet term-time Mondays 6.00-7.30pm in Gosforth Scout Hut, next to the school. Contact Samantha Milliner at sam.milliner@hotmail.co.uk or register interest on www.girlguiding.org.uk
- Gosforth Guides (1st Gosforth).** For girls aged 10-14. Meet term time 6.00-7.30pm in St Joseph's Church Hall, Seascale. Contact Abi Waller at Abi.waller@hotmail.com or register interest on www.girlguiding.org.uk
- Gosforth Karate.** Wednesday classes. 4.45pm. One free taster class available. to book call 01946 694751 or visit www.eskk.co.uk
- Gosforth Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.** Scouts Tuesdays 7pm to 9pm, contact Dave Marsden 24632. Cubs Wednesdays 6.15pm to 7.30pm, contact Jackie Harper 27211. Beavers Wednesdays 5pm to 6pm, contact Kathryn Ketchen 25912. In the Scout Hut next to the school.
- Gosforth Short Mat Indoor Bowls Club.** Every Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm in Gosforth Village Hall. New members welcome, spare bowls available. Flat soled shoes preferred.
- Gosforth WI.** Monthly meetings are held in the public hall on the First Tuesday of the month at 7.15pm March-October, 2pm November-February.

Holmrook Reading Room Bookings. The Reading Room has a fully equipped kitchen, facilities for people with disability, in fact everything you would need for a great party. See if it is available for your next event? To book the room please contact David on 019467 24632.

Holmrook Reading Room Table Tennis Club. Meets on a Wednesday – 6.30pm to 7.30pm. All welcome, young or old. Contact David on 019467-24632. Other times can be arranged.

Holmrook Reading Room Fishing Club. Fish on our Reading Room stretch of water. If you want to join this club, or simply want some more information, please contact David on 019467 24632.

Holmrook Reading Room Playground. Come and see for yourself.

Holmrook Reading Room Wild Flower Meadow. Enjoy a walk or just sit and relax in the peace and quiet of the meadow. Supervised children are welcome.

Jam Side Up Jazz Jam Session. First Friday every month. The Kellbank Hotel, Gosforth. From 8.30pm. www.jamsideup.net or 01967 28619 for more details. Admission free.

Line Dancing. Every Monday. 7.30pm, Windscale Club, Seascale. £3 pp donation to charity. Contact 019467 28849 for details.

Messy Church. Run jointly between St Cuthbert's and Seascale Methodist Church and meets on the third Saturday of each month in school term in the Methodist Church Hall at 2pm to 4pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Moky HIIT/Core Blast. Seascale Sports Hall. Monday 10-10.30am. Contact info@mokyfit.co.uk, 01946 721166 or 07724 240179

MokyZEST. Seascale Sports Hall. Monday 10.45am. Contact info@mokyfit.co.uk, 01946 721166 or 07724 240179

MokyHIIT/Core Blast. Gosforth Public Hall. Thursday 5.45-6.15pm. Contact info@mokyfit.co.uk, 01946 721166 or 07724 240179

Moky HIIT Class. Seascale Sports Hall. Friday 10.00am-10.30am. Contact info@mokyfit.co.uk, 01946 721166 or 07724 240179

Muckypups Baby and Toddler Group. Thursdays 10-12 during term time, Drigg Village Hall. Friendly group with baby zone, craft activities, messy play, ride-ons, dress-up and more! £2.50 for first child, 50p for additional children.

Open Mic Night – Strands, Nether Wasdale. First Wednesday every month. 9pm start. Live music by various singers and groups.

Open Mic Night – Florence Mine, Egremont. Third Wednesday of each month. Great atmosphere, all gear provided. Just turn up.

Open Social Run. First Sunday every month, 9.30am. Seascale beach or cinder track, starting from car park. Organised by Blengdale Runners and open to all who can run 3 miles or more any speed.

Phoenix Praise Worship Band. Meets in Gosforth Methodist Church Schoolroom, 7pm Fridays during school term-time. Come along and sing, play or help technical support. All welcome – no church affiliation necessary. Jill or Keith Hudson 019467 21592. jillfhudson@hotmail.co.uk

Pilates Class (mat based). Mondays, 6.00pm (beginners/intermediate) 7.15pm (intermediates). Gosforth Public Hall (Main Hall). £5 per week or £25 for 6 weeks. Contact Amy on 07510 104508 or amyflsher@hotmail.com (note 1 not 1). Now also qualified to teach Pilates to ladies at all stages of pregnancy and postnatally.

Rangers. Every Tuesday during school term time. 7.15-8.45pm, usually in supper room at Gosforth Public Hall. Contact: Sue Smith 019467 28265.

Saturday Coffee Morning. Seascale Methodist Church Hall, 10-11.30am.

Scottish Country Dancing. Windscale Club, Seascale. Every Wednesday from September to April at 7.30pm. Beginners very welcome.

Scouts/Cubs/Beavers. 2nd Seascale Scout Group. Every Thursday night in school term time. St Cuthbert's Hall. Beavers (6-8 years), 5-6pm. Cubs (8-10 years), 6-7.30pm. Scouts (10-14½ years), 7.30-9pm.

Contact: 28296 or info@seascalescouts.org.uk

Seascale Art Group. Monday mornings (except Public Holidays) 10am-12noon in the Games Room at the Windscale Club. Call in.

Seascale Knitting Group. Fortnightly meetings on Wednesdays 6.30-8pm at the Windscale Club. £1 per session. For more information contact Penny Cater penelope_cater@btinternet.com

Seascale Men's Keep Fit. Tuesday, 10.30am. 45-minute session in the Sports Hall. Target range is 55-85 years. Work at your own rate and set your own goals. One free session available. Alan Bell, 24250 or John Calvert 28936.

Seascale Parish Council Meetings. First Wednesday every month. 7pm in the Methodist Schoolroom. No meeting in August unless there is urgent business.

Seascale Tea and Chat. Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall.

Seascale WI. Seascale Methodist School Room. Mondays 7pm every month except January. Details from Allison Hanshaw, 21935, ajhanshaw@outlook.com

Seascale Women's Outlook. Alternate Tuesdays in term time at 8pm in the Methodist Hall. All ladies welcome. Contact Glenda on 28404 for programme. Table Tennis Club. Wednesdays. Holmrook Reading Room, 6.30-7.30pm. All welcome to turn up or contact David on 24632.

Shackles Off Baby Group. Mondays, 11am-1pm.

Tuesday Chat. First Tuesday every month. 2-4pm. Drigg & Carleton Village Hall. Special events and entertainment. All welcome.

West Cumbria Guild of Model Engineers meetings. Second Wednesday of every month at the Clubhouse at Curwen Hall Park Track starting 7pm. If you are interested contact Tom Jones on 019467 28938.

West Lakes USA. Membership is £5 which covers membership of all West lakes USA groups. For further information www.u3a.sites.org.uk/west-lakes. Contact: Vera Lowrey 25213 or Membership Tony Bagnall 25595.

West Lakes USA Open Mind. A General Meeting on the third Thursday every month at Gosforth Public Hall 10.15am for 11am start.). Contact: Vera Lowrey 25213 or Alan Bell 24250.

West Lakes USA Art Appreciation. Second Thursday every month at St Joseph's Church Hall Seascale 10.30am. Contact: Jean Taylor 28713.

West Lakes USA Discovery Group. Fourth Wednesday every month at St Mary's Church Hall 10.15am for 11am. Contact: Graham Hutson 25477.

West Lakes USA Discussion Group (House Meeting). Third Tuesday of the month 10.45am until 12 noon in a private house contact Graham Brassington 25794.

West Lakes USA History Group. First Wednesday every month at Drigg Village Hall 10.15am for 11am start. Contact: Mary Holbrook 25466.

West Lakes USA Reading Group (House Meeting). Fourth Thursday every month at Gosforth 10.45am until 12 noon in a private house. Contact: Jean Taylor 28713.

West Lakes USA Singing for Fun. First Thursday of the month at Seascale Methodist Hall at 2.15pm. Contact: Xandra Brassington 25794. To attend you will need to join the Open Mind Group of West Lakes USA for £5.00 per annum. Contact is Xandra Brassington: 019467 25794.

Wild Flower Meadow. Holmrook Reading Room. Phone 24632 to be involved. Supervised children welcome.

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At long last we can see some spotlights at the end of the theatrical tunnel and we have plenty planned for when we are able to start meeting, rehearsing and performing.

GADS Youth Theatre Group

We have been carefully

following the government's guidelines and considering the difficulties of social distancing when it comes to theatre and performing. The next step in the government's roadmap (17 May) should allow us to recommence Youth Theatre Group on Thursday 20 May, so we may well be back in action again by the time you read this. Furthermore, we have cleared our waiting list and we have a few spaces for new members. No matter what your experience or confidence, if you are interested in joining this action packed group for 8-18 year olds, get in touch with YT Director Tosh McGregor using yt@gads.org.uk. We meet at 7pm in the main hall at Gosforth Public Hall, weekly during term time, except for half term.

Plays for Pleasure

Plays for Pleasure (P4P) should also be back in action in June or July, once we can meet up again without too many restrictions on numbers or

social distancing. We will be meeting once a month at 7:30pm upstairs in the Kellbank, Gosforth. If you are not familiar with P4P, you may fancy getting out, having a laugh and meeting new friends or even catching up with old ones. You may want to have a go at reading or listening to a play. If so, P4P is for you and we'd love to see you at our sessions. We read a variety of plays and it's always a fun, relaxed evening. Just turn up on the night, you will be warmly welcomed. Who knows, we might even persuade you to get on stage with us in one of our productions. If you want any further information please contact p4p@gads.org.uk or via the gads website. Keep an eye on Facebook and the website for the start date.

Summer Youth Workshop – August 2nd to 7th

Despite the odds, we managed to run our Summer Youth Workshop in August 2020 and the next one is planned for August 2021. Ideally we will be back to our normal fully interactive format with a performance on the Saturday evening. A script is in preparation – a time travel concept visiting previous monarchs of the UK. The week will run daily from 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday, with a show on Saturday evening. We are not open for bookings yet, but please watch Facebook and our website for details if your youngsters are interested in coming along. As well as participants, we also need a few adult helpers for the week and parents often help us out with this for a day or two. If you would like further information, there are accounts of many previous years on our website, or you can email us.

Autumn Play

Yes, we are coming back in force and planning an Autumn Play too. This will run from 14 to 16 October, but if you would like to take part (on or off stage) rehearsals begin on 24 August with auditions in the week or two before that. It could

be something to cheer us all up after being locked down for so long. Or it could be something a bit spooky just before Halloween. ▶



► **Pantomime – Beauty and the Beast, by Tom Whalley**

Oh yes we can. Back in action with another good one from Tom Whalley, who wrote our Alice in Wonderland (Jan 2019). Auditions will be in October with rehearsals beginning on 2 November.

For more information

You can tell that we are raring to go as soon as Covid restrictions permit. So please keep an eye on our website and social media for more details. Even better, you might want to get out and do something social and creative when you are allowed to – and we have opportunities for everyone aged 8 and over. We love to see new faces and talent, so to get involved with GADS; find out more about what we get up to, or contact us, please see our website



www.gads.org.uk. On Facebook we are gads1948 and you can follow us on Twitter @gadsgosforth. We're also on Instagram. For dates see page 9.

Tosh McGregor / Jim Polmear, GADS



GADS Summer Workshops always include a few games to help getting to know each other.

Pantomime rehearsals start with the cast reading the script together.



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REGISTRATION FOR THE COPELAND GDF WORKING GROUP'S GEOLOGY WEBINAR

Copeland GDF (Geological Disposal Facility) Working Group is holding three further online events – this time with a geology focus.

The webinars will be held on Thursday, May 27, at 11.30pm-1pm and 6.30pm-8pm, also on Saturday, May 29, 10.30am-12pm. See the website for details of how to register:

www.copeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk
It follows the first in the series of events, held in March, which focused on geological disposal and what it could mean for Copeland.

The May webinars will follow a different format to allow for discussion groups to take place, alongside questions and answers and feature members of Copeland GDF Working Group and Radioactive Waste Management (RWM).

Working Group Chair Mark Cullinan said: "Geology is a topic which often comes up locally and therefore we wanted it to be a focus for these events to allow people to hear from experts and to ask their own questions.

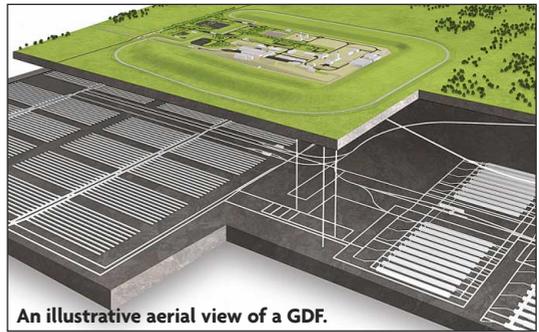
"We plan to break out into focus groups to allow more discussion to take place during the 90-minute sessions."

The Copeland GDF Working Group has three main tasks – begin to understand community issues, concerns and questions

about GDF; identify a search area or areas within Copeland and recruit initial members for a Community Partnership which could take that work forward.

The Working Group is available to speak to groups, help to answer questions and provide information. **Please get in touch by email:** gdfinfo-copeland@nda.gov.uk or telephone 0300 369 0000.

For further information, see the website: www.copeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk where you can also sign up for a monthly newsletter and also visit the virtual exhibition: www.copeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk/get-involved/



An illustrative aerial view of a GDF.



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We are pleased to have succeeded in getting this spring/summer edition of Tethera together despite the ramifications of lockdown.

The next Tethera is scheduled to be published ready for the weekend of 30 October (and online about 10 days earlier), and we will be on the lookout for stories – and event dates too – which hopefully will be possible this time. The closing date for all contributions, editorial and advertising, is Thursday 7 October 2021.

Tethera and previous issues of Seascale, Gosforth and Drigg Parish Council magazines are available to view and download in PDF format at <http://www.trpub.net/html/tethera.htm>

Seascale Health Centre

Monday – Friday:

8:00am – 6:30pm

Tel: 019467 28101

Email: GP-A82024@nhs.net

Out of hours: 111

Emergency calls: 999



Bootle Surgery

Monday and Wednesday:

9:00am – 12:30pm

Thursday: 9:00am – 12noon
(Reception and Dispensary only,
no Doctor or Nurse on site)

Tuesday 9:00 – 12:30 – Nurse,
Dispensary and Reception.

Tel: 01229 718711

SEASCALE DISPENSARY OPENING HOURS

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

8:45am – 1:00pm 3:00pm – 6pm

Tuesday & Thursday

8:45am – 1:00pm 2:00pm – 6:00pm

Anyone living further than 1 mile from a community pharmacy can use Seascale's Surgery dispensary. The Seascale dispensary phone 019467 27451 to order repeat medication is available

9:30am – 12:00noon

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Seascale Dispensary now has an answerphone for prescription requests. This is available all day Monday-Friday for messages to be left.

TRAINING DAYS

Bootle closes at 12:30pm on Wednesdays

and 12:00noon on Thursdays

Seascale closes at 1:00pm on both days

Thursday 20 May 2021

Wednesday 16 June 2021

Thursday 15 July 2021

No August

Wednesday 15 September 2021

Thursday 14 October 2021

Wednesday 17 November 2021

GP appointments are now all telephone or video calls during COVID. If appointments are necessary GP will advise. Bootle prescriptions can be ordered by contacting Bootle surgery directly by telephone or by ordering online.

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FIGHTING THE FORMIDABLE...

All of us here at PJ's Nursery were hoping things would start off a little less of a struggle this year. However, like everyone else we were in put in lockdown, only with the additional problem of being asked by the government to stay open to all yet without the same level of support offered to the schools, such as lateral flow testing.

We lost income as parents kept their children at home, but this allowed us the opportunity to increase our safety measures for the children that attended. In our setting we can care for 26 children at once in what was formerly a three-bedroomed house, but during the last few months we have been happy to have reduced numbers which creates space, but also realise that as a privately run business this model is not sustainable in the long term.

We are now trained in delivering lateral flow testing and have received our home testing kits. This will enable us to test staff at the nursery or at home rather than travel to community test

sites. Some staff have already received their vaccines and others eagerly await our turn so we can continue to provide safe care for your children.

I can't thank my staff enough for all of their support and hard work over the last year, but also a huge thank you to all of our parents for trusting us to care for your children. We are fully aware how hard it has been for you to hand over your children (particularly the new starters) during this time.

Finally, a huge thank you to all of the children who even through the toughest times made us smile, laugh and cry happy tears; they truly have kept all of the staff sane and given us a reason to carry on.

We are now back fully open and not only are we confident the future looks good, we are actively recruiting new staff. Please visit our Facebook page or website www.pjnursery.co.uk for more details and testimonials.

Julie Dickinson



PJ's Nursery

**For further information please contact us on
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or email: pjsnursery@aol.com**

**Julie Dickinson, PJ's Nursery, 96 Gosforth Road,
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Website : <http://www.pjsnursery.co.uk>
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Services currently offered at PJ's Nursery:

- ▶ **Babies and children under 2 in our dedicated baby spaces.**
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ACTIVITIES UPDATE AT ESKDALE MILL

Despite its closure as a visitor attraction since November, Eskdale Mill has continued to keep its wheels turning. Eskdale Mill & Heritage Trust, who own this unique historical water corn mill has managed to keep its head above water thanks to the Copeland Council business closure grants plus the continued support from National Lottery Heritage Fund for its ongoing “heritage project” and Covid-safe facilities.

Local volunteers have also proved to be a godsend for Kate Hughes, the Mill Manager, during the quiet spell in Boot village. People on furlough have come forward looking for something



Recently restored working waterwheels driving the milling machinery inside.

Eskdale Mill & Heritage Trust (EMHT)

was established in 2006 and are the current owners of Eskdale Mill. UK company limited by guarantee, 05743618 and UK registered charity, 1113837.

EMHT was formed by local people who wanted to preserve the mill as a historic building open to the public. The Trust is dedicated to the continued operation of the mill as part of its preservation and development for public benefit, and to promotion of the history, heritage, geography and geology of Eskdale.

Funding

for our volunteers’ activities has been contributed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), from money raised through players of the National Lottery and from Copeland Community Fund.

worthwhile to do in their spare time and have got stuck in with ongoing day-to-day operations. They’ve provided admin support as well as providing much needed help with the Miller’s Garden developments and grounds maintenance. The small team is just finishing installing the new raspberry growing area and have improved the overgrown ‘paddock area’ which will form an exclusive outdoor classroom ideal for school groups and educational workshops. In doing this, the volunteers have gained rural skills in coppicing, fencing, planting and walling. The next projects will involve continuing with meadow management works and establishing a fruit tree area.

Now that the government has provided a timeline, the core volunteers were able to return from 12 April in the lead up to the hopeful re-opening date from 17 May. These volunteers will be able to get the mill and exhibitions ready for public appreciation. There are also plans afoot for training in traditional milling techniques so the front-of-house team can competently deliver milling demonstrations to the public during special events in the summer.

Added to this, a new nature trail is being produced and more outdoor seating areas will be implemented during the summer for visitors to enjoy and take in the natural setting next to



Volunteers installing the new raspberry area in the Miller's Garden this winter.

Whillan Beck as it cascades from the fells off Scafell and Burnmoor Tarn.

Since the 2019 major restoration to the buildings, milling machinery and exhibitions, Eskdale Mill has welcomed over 4000 visitors. The income stream from its admissions tickets goes a long way in generating sustainable figures and safeguarding a viable future.

As a charity, Eskdale Mill & Heritage Trust provides volunteering roles at Eskdale Mill ranging from mill operatives, receptionists, and tour guides right through to gardening and practical

DIY. This means that adults of all ages and backgrounds can carry out and learn transferable skills which can support career aspirations, physical and mental wellbeing and satisfy personal hobbies and interests. Volunteers can work together as a team in a friendly environment whilst supporting the work plan overseen by the Mill Manager.

There is now a particular drive to recruit new volunteers to ensure there are enough people trained up to deliver demonstrations, operate the wheels and run reception during their opening



Volunteer tour guide demonstrating the 'sack hoist' last summer.



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Open Times

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10.30am—4.30pm (last admission 1/2 hour before closing)

CONTACT: Mill Manager on 01946 723 335 or EMAIL: info@eskdalemill.co.uk

ONLINE BOOKINGS: www.eskdalemill.co.uk/visit FOLLOW US: Facebook and Twitter @EskdaleMill

▶ times this summer. If you would like to add to or learn new skills, please get in touch with Kate Hughes, the Mill Manager who'd love to hear from you. She will arrange a volunteer induction day with you and get you started. All that's required is a commitment to volunteering one day per fortnight, a reasonable level of fitness, an ability to learn new skills and to aim to work as part of a team. All training, travel expenses and equipment needs are provided.

Kate commented that "If you'd like to get involved in a local community project, then this is the perfect chance. Eskdale Mill is a special place steeped in history that dates to 1547. Now, we're able to continue the important history of the site for everyone to enjoy and appreciate. People can spend quality time in an idyllic landscape where a variety of opportunities well suited for volunteers are provided. The best part of my job is helping people to flourish whilst making amazing progress on our many project activities which in turn keeps the story alive for generations to come.

All current volunteer work here is

gratefully supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Copeland Community Fund."

You can keep up to date by visiting their website on www.eskdalemill.co.uk and following them on social media. If you're interested in volunteering, do feel free to contact Kate on 019467 23335 or volunteers@eskdalemill.co.uk



Kate Hughes, Mill Manager, welcomes you outside the 'Lower Mill'.

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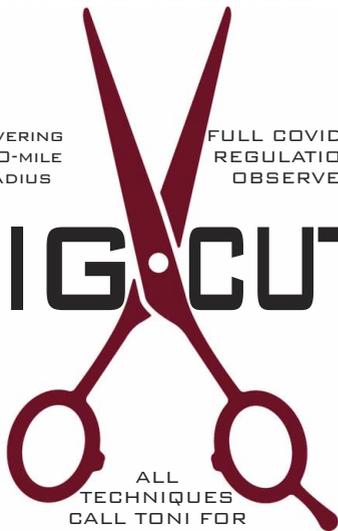
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WHAT'S THE CRACK AT THE

CUMBRIAN LODGE

Like most people in Seascale I've been intrigued to see the hive of activity going on at Cumbrian Lodge on Gosforth Road over the last few months. As usual my nosiness got the better of me and I dropped in to get the crack.

I'm glad I did, because Paul and Angela Evans, the new owners, are warm and friendly. Their soft Scottish accents, while being a delight to listen too, give them away as not being local and certainly not Cumbrian. Paul is from Irvine in West Scotland and Angela was born in Glasgow.

During our chat it soon became apparent that these two people are well acquainted with the hard graft that the hospitality industry demands.

"We met in 1992 at the Golf Links Hotel in the Isle of Man," said Angela, "I'd been working there a while before Paul arrived."

Their lives took on adventures that included many years working in Qatar in the Middle East. "I came back after six and half years" remarked Angela "but Paul remained for another few years."

While Paul was still in Qatar, Angela wanted something productive to do, and along with her daughter Luran they opened up a café in Derbyshire.

"It was a lot of hard work because we



completely renovated the inside and changed the menu. We worked hard to earn a 5 stars hygiene rating that we held onto for four years." said





Fine Dining

Angela. “It was important to us that the cafe became a warm and welcoming place for people of all ages and backgrounds.”

After a bit of research, I found that Angela and Luran had created a hugely success business that hit the headlines when they launched their monster breakfast challenge. It quickly defeated a local journalist who was convinced he would be top of their leader board. “It was about giving the people what they wanted,” said Angela who is rightly proud of their success. When it was announced, they were going to sell the business last year over 3,000 followers on their Facebook page were not shy at expressing their sadness.

“We put the café up for sale last year and we were pleasantly surprised when it attracted lots of interest,” said Paul who after returning from the Middle East wanted a more sedate lifestyle.

What made them come to west Cumbria?

“We looked around for a nice little bed and breakfast business and saw this online and knew we had to come and investigate,” said Paul.

“It was a really hot day when we first came to look at the business last year,” laughed Angela, “And we were told that it was not normal weather for this area.” At this point I thought it best to keep quiet about the wind and rain that can settle in for weeks on end!

Angela continued, “I said to Paul that I had goosebumps the second I walked into the building, but Paul didn’t want to admit that he felt the same until we were driving away.” Said Angela. “I just felt so at home and knew we could make a go of this business.”

Paul is adamant that they get their offering correct before opening their doors. “We want to make sure we give the locals what they want and need in the village. And so far, we recognise the need for a pub in the village,” said Paul. “We don’t want to be in competition with the club and have already had talks with Mandy. We want to create





▶ a nice bar atmosphere for a gentle clientele who want to come out for a quiet drink and chat with friends.”

This was music to my ears.

“We won’t be having a big screen to watch the matches on; people can go to the club for that. And we won’t be having loud music,” continued Paul. “We have been busy creating more outside seating areas that we hope people will enjoy.”

Cumbrian Lodge will continue to be a B&B, “We’ve been busy updating all six en suite bedrooms to ensure our guests have the best experience staying with us” said Angela, “and we wanted the lounge and bar to feel inviting and comfortable for people to just pop in for a drink.”

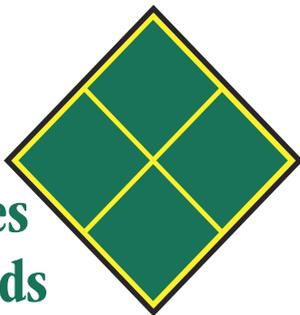
They are still working out the menu to make sure it hits the spot for locals and visitors to enjoy. “We’ve already made the decision that it’s not going to be fine dining,” said Paul, “just honest home cooked food that the locals have asked for.”

Paul and Angela are keen that locals have their say, so make sure you follow them on Facebook and Instagram (@Cumbrian_Lodge) and to find out when their opening date. I will be first in line, so get the Pinot Grigio on ice and a few vegan dishes on the menu please guys, thanks!

Vivienne Tregidga



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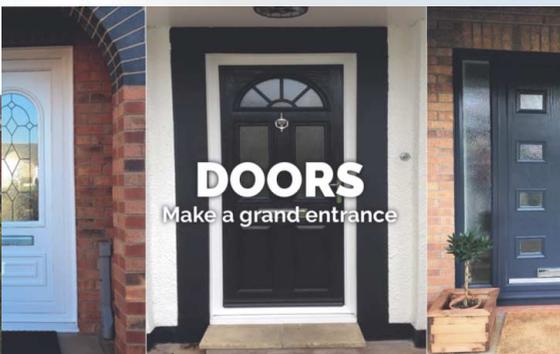


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PEDAL OR PADDLE TO FREEDOM!



Don't know about you, but I for one am sick of staying indoors after the year we've all had. This summer I'm determined on spending every second of the day OUTSIDE. And what better way of doing that than hiring a paddle board or a mountain bike and getting out into the great outdoors with friends.

Well, now it's easy because Laura Sandham, Amy Fisher, Josh Smales and Ben Seed have created a wonderful new business called 'Marra Bikes and Boards' in Gosforth. What a great idea. They have invested in 12 brand new mountain bikes and 8, equally new, paddle boards that people can hire from their base at Yam Frae Yam café in Gosforth.

"We are strong believers in British products and have a philosophy where we buy British first. All our bikes and boards are made by British companies," explained Ben with pride.

Their Paddle Boards are inflatable and were designed by a father and son engineering combo in Poole, Dorset, who wanted to create a board that provided optimum stability and manoeuvrability through the water.

"I have been a mountain biker for many years

and I wanted to make sure our mountain bikes were the best, not only for rough downhill track riding, but also on the road." says Ben "That's why we choose bikes made by Calibre and Vitus who are exceptional brands that stand for high quality."

"We are extremely focussed on individuals experiencing the gems of the local area in ways other than using a vehicle" Ben continued. "Part of our decision making to come up with this business has been the Viking way cycle path. It has been a real fundamental and positive attribute to our local area, helping connect the mountains with the sea. We all feel extremely fortunate to have it."

The new business partners are passionate that visitors shouldn't leave any trace behind to spoil our wonderful area "Clean up after yourself – is our mantra – and we are determined that all their customers abide by this," says Ben.

On this note the partners are going to put this into practice. "Although it's not going to happen just yet, we will be doing beach clean days. This will consist of taking all our kit down to Seascale beach and letting people use it free of charge as long as they help us litter pick on

The Marra Team.
Left to right:
Josh, Laura,
Ben, Amy.



you might need. All you need to do is turn up and one of the partners will fit you out, they even have wet suits.

And if you're thinking you need your own helmet

the beach and the local area," said Ben "and we intend doing something similar in Wasdale and Blengdale too."

The partners are determined to look after us locals, by giving us a 10% discount as long as we quote LOCAL10 when booking on their website. How cool is that!

When you hire one of these Marra boards it will come with a pump and car lighter powered electric pump, life jackets, leash and other extras

before you can hire one of their mountain bikes, think again. At Marra they have everything you need for a great day out; from a helmet, first aid kit, spare inner tube, lock pump and multi tool and rucksack. So come on, there's no excuse, get on your bike and enjoy the freedom of no more lockdown. Not to mention being able to burn off all that excess fat in a fun way! OK, I'm in.

www.marrabikesandboards.com

Vivienne Tregidga

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

How do you combine the traditional Christmas services (Carols, Christingle, Crib) into one event as they cannot be offered in the normal way because of COVID 19 restrictions?

That was what faced us as we sat down in October to see what we could achieve; a small group of us decided an outside event was the way forward. We wanted to involve the whole village as everyone was missing and had missed so many other village events that had been cancelled. It was decided that life size nativity figures would be appropriate. It is Philip Dorling and his family's first Christmas with us and he wanted the theme to be 'Travelling a shared pathway lined by the light of Christ'. Through Zoom meetings we worked out how to achieve this. We contacted various village groups and organisations. The School, Nursery, Brownies, Scouts, Gosforth WI, the Parish Council, Gosforth Amateur Dramatics and Drigg Young Farmers to see if they would like to be involved. All were willing, so along with various individuals, they set out to make life-sized Nativity figures to be displayed in gardens around the village, each with a bible quote on a board plus a key word, the

idea being that children would be given a trail sheet

The Spirit of Christmas

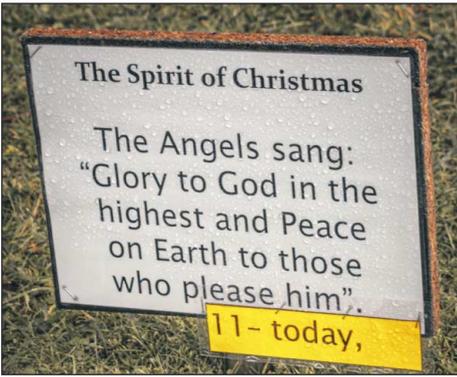
The Angels said
"I bring you good
news - A Saviour has
been born in
Bethlehem"

5 - news of





and would go round the village spotting the figures, ticking them off and putting together a bible sentence using the key word. The groups enjoyed planning the figures including a giant Christingle and solving the various logistical problems of making figures without getting together outside of their own bubbles, plans continued to be made. Over 200 jam jars were collected to line the pathways with tea lights and paths



were cleared of moss. The figures were to be in the gardens for the week preceding Sunday 20 December, when they would be moved to the churchyard ready for the event. In the evening, between 5-7pm, the villagers could come in socially distanced groups to view the figures. Musical groups, harp players and singers were asked to play music in the church with windows and doors open so it could be heard outside. ►



► Inside and outside lighting was borrowed. Our Viking cross was to be lit up with an explanation of its history and relevance to today.

Ideas flowed during the Zoom meetings, and fellowship grew; prayer cards would be given at the start of the route and a torch sponsored by a local business would be given out. Each person would receive a Christingle at the end of the route plus an activity bag for the children. Two children painted nativity pictures which were to be used on promotional literature – the church magazine, posters as well as a Christmas card that would be delivered to all the residents of the Parish.

As the event approached and the figures began to appear, excited children and parents could be seen looking around the village searching for them. In the week preceding the event, the weather was very wet so some of the figures needed attention as they dripped in the gardens, but our prayers were answered as the evening of the event approached – it was set to be dry. On the afternoon we assembled the figures in the churchyard, the holy family in the church porch complete with straw sheep and a donkey looking in. Angels were placed by the trees at the back of the church near where the

group Harps Out West were playing. Shepherds and sheep greeted people as they arrived at the churchyard and the Kings were to be seen approaching across the grass near the cork tree. Next to the cross was a giant Christingle. Then the lighting was set up in readiness for the big event.

As darkness approached on the evening of Sunday 20 December, our planning team put out 200 jam jars and tea lights that had been collected to mark the route for The Spirit of Christmas. Marshalls arrived. And just as we were about to let the first people in, a hail shower hit. It was short lived. The Spirit of Christmas had begun. Lots of people came, some going round twice so they could listen to some more music. We joined in with 'The Cumbria Big Sing' of Silent Night. You caught glimpses of children warmly dressed and lit by torches following the route round collecting their Christingles and donating to the Children's society.

Everyone enjoyed this different event, which



we hoped would bring the village together at this difficult time. Thanks must go to all involved in putting it on... and those who came to enjoy it.

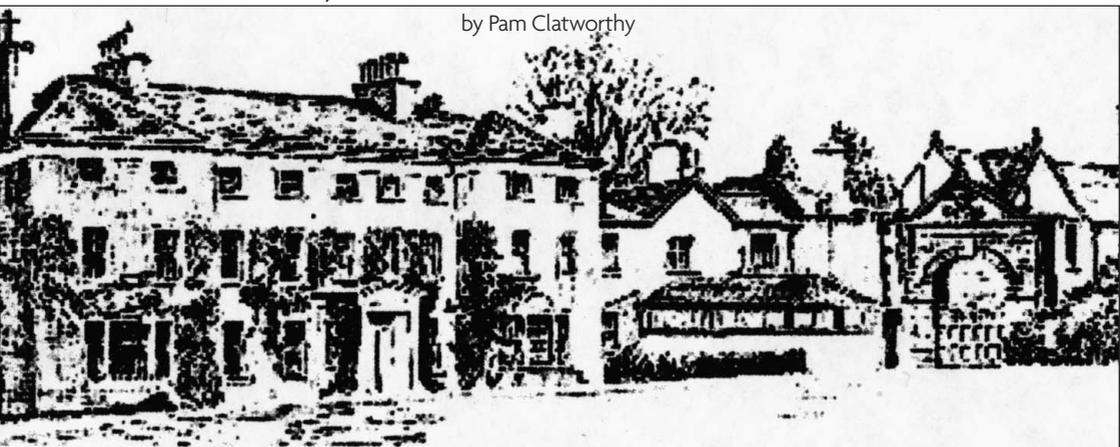
Our pilgrimage through life is much better if each step is travelled in the company of others – that goes for Christmas too! This year, because of COVID 19, we at Saint Mary's Church, Gosforth celebrated Christmas differently. We hope everyone was touched by 'The Spirit of Christmas.'

Ann McKenzie, on behalf of The Spirit of Christmas planning group.



NELSON, EMMA AND THE LUTWIDGES

by Pam Clatworthy



Holmrook Hall, Cumberland, the home of Admiral and Mrs Skeffington Lutwidge in the time of Lord Nelson

A great friendship had sprung up between Skeffington Lutwidge and the young Horatio Nelson when Nelson served under Captain Lutwidge on HMS *Carcass*. It is said that on an expedition to find a north-west passage to the Pacific Ocean, Nelson decided to leave the ship and kill a polar bear so that he could send the pelt to his father. He soon got into difficulties and when the bear attacked it was the quick reaction of a friend and the ship's guns firing that saved his life.

Captain Lutwidge was furious with him and threatened to send Nelson home but, despite this bad beginning, they had a great affection for each other which lasted until Nelson's death. It appears that Emma Hamilton was also fond of the Lutwidges and both she and Nelson mention them fondly in private letters to each other.

On 19 August 1801, on board HMS *Amazon*, Nelson write to Emma:

"My Dearest Friend, It being a very fine morning and the beach smooth, I went to call on Admiral Lutwidge and returned on board before two-o'clock. Mrs. Lutwidge is delighted with your present. She joins in abusing the Admiralty. She pressed me very much to dine with them at 3-o'clock, but I told her I would not dine with the angel Gabriel to be dragged through the night surf. Her answer was she hoped soon I should dine with an angel, for she was sure you was one. In short she adores you, but who does not?..."

In another undated letter Nelson writes to Emma –

"Mrs. Lutwidge has been babbling away that she will go to Portsmouth with the Admiral; who says he shall be fully employed that he cannot be much with her.

She whispered to Bedford "I have many friends in the army there."

She will certainly marry a soldier if ever she is disposable. But, perhaps you will agree with me that no good soldier would take her."

The private letters between Nelson and Emma Hamilton are easily read on-line or in book form but I was quite amazed to find a copy of an unpublished letter from Emma Hamilton to Mrs Lutwidge in our local archive office in Whitehaven, Cumbria, who are custodians of it. It must have been written just after the death of Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar. There is no record of who owns the original but the letter is described as being in 'a fair hand'. It reads as follows:

(Copy of a letter from Emma Hamilton to Lady Lutwidge, courtesy of Whitehaven Archive Office.)

What can I say to my dearest friend – what can a broken heart and a body worn out with fretting say – I can only assure you that your poor Emma is most wretched, most unhappy, never ever shall I be happy again, all my comfort gone – my Nelson is dead and has left me most forlorn, but

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*his last breath was for me, my name half pronounced
Emma was the last. God Almighty has taken him and yet
my dear Friend I exist and it is a wonder, for I sleep not, nor
eat not – all is a void, all senses dark and comfortless to
me. When you come to town that will be some fort to me,
that I may speak, think, weep and grieve together for the
loss of this dear ever to be lamented friend.
May God bless you and your excellent Admiral, write to
your poor affected heart broken Emma.*

Whether the Lutwidges ever did meet Emma Hamilton again I do not know.

Mrs Lutwidge died on 1 May 1810 at Holmrook Hall and her husband followed her on 21 August 1814. A memorial to him is in St Paul's Church Irton, Cumbria. It is worth noting that he was the great uncle of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, also known as *Lewis Carroll* of Alice in Wonderland fame, who was a frequent visitor to Holmrook Hall. During World War Two Holmrook Hall still had ties with the Royal Navy. It became a highly secret base known as *HMS Volcano* for training naval personnel to deal with German mines and unexploded bombs on the Normandy beaches on D-Day.

This Lutwidge article was published in the Journal of the Nelson Society in July 2013, to whom thanks are due for our reprinting it and its cover.

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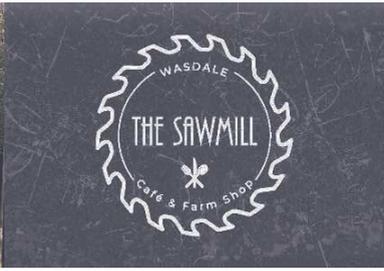


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DIGNITY

Sometimes, you really need a holiday. Five years ago, this was absolutely the case for me and my family. It had been an exhausting Easter, so we went to Scotland to stay on the Mull of Kintyre just to the North of Tarbet. It was years since I had been up that way.

As we were travelling through Glasgow, all sorts of events from my past flew through my mind, including a concert I attended by Deacon Blue. In my 'demob-happy' mood, I remember being overwhelmed by a desire to hear one of their songs ... a song, which I suddenly remembered, had some words about being on holiday 'up on the West Coast' in a small boat. Despite our search for a CD shop in the lovely area of the city surrounding the University – we came away empty handed.

A week later, my wife, Jacquie, reminded me that it was our 15th wedding anniversary, and handed me a small flat package, with a Deacon Blue CD in it. The next day, I put it on in the car, and was quickly told by my daughter that it was "Not that good". My son said it was "Too eighties!" What the children couldn't see from the back of the car, was that I was crying as I listened, for the first time in years, to the story of a refuse collector, nearing retirement, who did his job without complaining, who ate his lunch from a Sunblest bread bag, and who was teased by the children who saw him as he worked. But this man had a secret... he was saving his money to buy a boat – a boat that he was going to call *'Dignity'*.

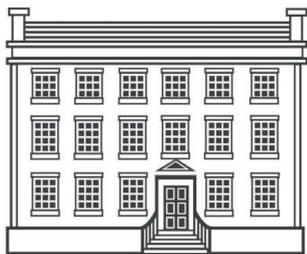
It is a great story, and a fabulous series of images. Stories about the dignity of human beings stir something deep inside me. The idea of dignity is why I found being a Christian minister in Africa so profound. There can be such dignity among those who have very little. We all long for the dignity and self-respect that a solid home and a good job can bring to a person. I guess that is why the last year has been so disturbing. We have all realised afresh that these things are not to be taken for granted. They are precious. Every person should know dignity as part of their human birthright.

On the first day I ever went to church on my own, and for my own reasons, I remember being overwhelmed by the sight of hundreds of young,

bright, successful people, who seemed to move effortlessly from friend to friend, in a way that I had never known. I probably would never have returned, if it had not been for the fact that one of the vicars there asked me my name during the service, and then, two hours later, at the end of the service, said "See you again, Philip" as I hurried out of the building. I remember looking at him and saying "You remembered my name"... to which he replied, "That is the least that we can do". I recall looking around and thinking – "Imagine a community where you count ... imagine people knowing your name, in a place like this!" I walked out a foot taller, and then, very soon afterwards, began to hear Jesus calling my name... calling me to follow him, and to serve the people he loves, for his name's sake. Three years later, I was training to become a priest.

As we settle down to live and work amongst the people and churches of this beautiful part of Cumbria, what I long to be part of is a community that knows people by name – and that loves them because they are alive, rather than because they are clever or beautiful or wealthy. Being alive should be all about dignity. Bad things happen in societies where some people are excluded from knowing about this vital thing. Dignity counts on the streets. A stable home, and a good job can give a person a good start in life... but what really matters, is that people have the chance to develop an understanding of the dignity, which is theirs by virtue of the fact that they are alive... that God has made them, and that he knows them, and calls them, by name, into existence for him. There is not a person alive who would not benefit from knowing, and understanding that. There never has been.

I am not very good at remembering names – but fortunately God is – and that is what really matters. As we move into the summer months, both Jacquie and I are really looking forward to meeting more of you properly – maybe even without a facemask on! **Reverend Philip Dorling** Philip and Jacquie Dorling moved into the Rectory in Gosforth at the start of October 2020, and will be involved with the Anglican Churches in what is known as the South Calder Mission Community. The Rectory, Wasdale Road, Gosforth CA20 1AZ. Tel: 01946 725102 Mob: 07500 239684 Webpage: <http://southcalder.org>



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FLOPPY FRINGES AND FLIPPER PAWS



During lockdown, it's not only us humans who've been sporting crazy hair do's, our darling four-legged companions have also taken on an unruly appearance. Squinting through floppy fringes and padding on flipper like paws, they've endured without complaint, unlike their human counterparts!

But all that is changing thanks to The Dog Barber Boutique newly opened on Gosforth Road in Seascale, opposite the Coop. Pooches can have the pampering they deserve and once again stride out with pride showing off their new coiffure.

Not only can Megan Tinnion, owner of The Dog Barber Boutique, give our dogs a new hair doo, but she can also provide them with unique natural treats, a new collar and lead, even a bespoke chaise longue to lounge away those lazy afternoons, and lots more that their little hearts may desire.

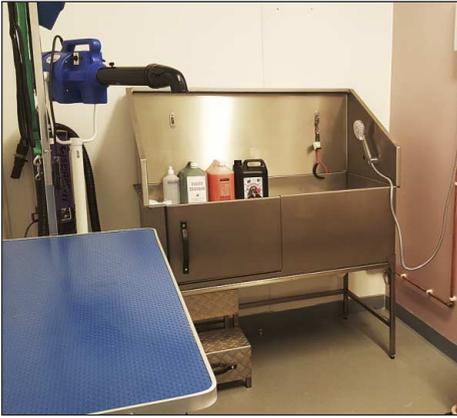
Megan, from Egremont, grew up with dogs in the house and started helping her mother, a qualified dog groomer, from an early age. "I then went on to work at two local groomers in Egremont. But it has always been my ambition to

have my own business and so we started looking for a shop in Egremont but struggled to find a suitable location. It was my partner's friend who put us onto this place in Seascale."

It hasn't been an easy road for Megan, "At 16 I had my incredible son Ollie and with my family's help looking after him, I was able to get a job and gain valuable grooming experience. But when that business closed, I decided it was time to go solo. Then I met my fiancé Stephen and I fell pregnant pretty quickly and had our daughter Millie, so the business got put on hold again."

Once Millie reached 6 weeks old, Megan was able to take up her grooming clippers once more. "During the time I was pregnant with Millie I continued to keep up my skills by taking online webinars and courses, because techniques are always changing, and I wanted to make sure I was up-to-date before starting up again. Then when I did, I was fortunate that all my original customers came back."

Megan is passionate about working with rescue dogs – "I love seeing the transformation and love helping dogs overcome their fears."



I had a peek at her new grooming parlour area and saw all the new shiny equipment ready for customers. "It's important that dogs are introduced correctly to the grooming process," explained Megan. "I always tell people, when you get a new puppy, bring it in to meet me before it needs grooming. Then I can let them run around the space to get used to it, and I take time to play with them. That way the puppy gains a positive experience with the parlour before they need

grooming." This comes under her Puppy Pampering package. It's clear to me that Megan is passionate about dogs.

The beautiful black standard poodle you see on her logo is Kira, "sadly she passed away in February, but customers will see her influence around the shop."

When I met Megan, a few days before lockdown was lifted, I was thrilled to learn she was booked solid for the first three weeks of opening. "I've been pleasantly surprised by the demand and hope it continues." I'm sure it will Megan, Seascale should be renamed Dogscale owing to the large number of dogs in the village. Good luck Megan, and welcome to the village.

Vivienne Tregida



Your Legion Needs You

Last year we raised £2,688.62 from across the local area through the Poppy Appeal.

As we come out of lockdown, there will be more opportunities to raise money, help local veterans, and remember the fallen at our ceremonial events.

To become a member of the Seascale & Sellafield Royal British Legion branch (Branch number BR4033 registered charity number 219279) go online and click at

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/things-to-do/membership/become-a-member>

The Seascale & Sellafield Royal British Legion branch setup last year and replaced the old Gosforth and District branch that had been amalgamated into Egremont some years earlier.

The National Royal British Legion celebrates its 100th anniversary this year and will be marked in Seascale at the War memorial on May 15 – covid willing.

You can get more up to date news on the Legion which serves the Tethera area on its Facebook page by clicking on

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SeascaleSellafieldRBL>



The last year has, without a doubt, been the most difficult and challenging year since we started in 2008. We are very proud that we have managed to keep on delivering youth work throughout three lockdowns. We delivered 10 online sessions across 5 days and during these sessions young people enjoyed fun and games, while also developing life skills such as cooking. We delivered workshops around issues such as mental health, body image and healthy relationships. We were able to provide support to some young people through 1:1 sessions both online and in person and deliver detached work around the village. This was all in line with guidance from the National Youth Agency (NYA).

As of 12 April we have now returned to face-to-face sessions in the Methodist church hall. We continue to promote social distancing and wear masks but we are also trying to keep youth club as 'normal' as we can. Since being back as well as enjoying games and activities youngsters have also been cooking and planning ideas for fundraising.

During the Easter holidays we were able to

provide outdoor activities again and were helped by the lovely warm weather! There were fun and games for young people including a giant game of hide and seek and a 'chalk chase'. We finished off the week with a BBQ and games, young people enjoyed hot dogs and burgers out in the sunshine before playing football and other games on the beach. All of these activities were COVID secure, following NYA guidance and social distancing in place.

Our Parents & Babies support group was able to start back from 12 April and this was welcomed by parents, some of who have felt particularly isolated during the lockdowns. All of our youth sessions are now back indoors following NYA guidelines and COVID Secure. We are starting to plan our summer programme and details will be on our Facebook page in the coming weeks.

A big thankyou for all our funders and supporters and the local community – without you this would not be possible: Copeland Community Fund, Sellafield Ltd, Cumbria County Council, Cumbria Community Foundation, FCSC & the Co-op Community Fund.

Shackles Off Current Sessions Timetable

Shackles Off continues to be well attended across a variety of sessions and operates every day.

Monday 11.00-13.00	SEASCALE – Babies, Bumps & toddlers support group
Monday 17.00-18.30	SEASCALE – Social Action Project
Monday+Wednesday 14.00-16.00	SEASCALE – Drop in for NEET (Not in Education Training or Employment)
Tuesday 17.30-19.00	MILLOM – Social Action Project (Starting July 2021)
Tuesday 19.15-20.30	MILLOM – Youth club age 13+ (Starting July 2021)
Wednesday 14.00-16.00	SEASCALE – Coffee & Craic for (Over 55's) Starts 19th May
Wednesday 17.00-18.00	SEASCALE – Midweek Youth Club ages 11-13
Wednesday 18.15-20.00	SEASCALE – Midweek Youth Club ages 13+
Thursday 17.30-18.45	MILLOM – Youth club age 8-12 (Starting 27th May)
Thursday 19.00-20.30	MILLOM – Youth club age 13+ (Starting 27th May)
Friday 17.00-18.00	SEASCALE – Junior Youth Club ages 6-11
Friday 18.15-19.15	SEASCALE – Friday Night Youth Club ages 11-13
Friday 19.30-21.00	SEASCALE – Friday Night Youth Club ages 13+
Saturday 9.30-11.30	Train Your Brain (Dyslexia Saturday school) *
Sunday 10.15-12.00	X-treme – Worship for young people and adults

1:1 support sessions available by appointment – contact Rachel on 07554610558

*ALL OF OUR SESSIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE apart from the Dyslexia Saturday School 'Train your brain'. This is a project run in partnership with West Cumbria Dyslexia Association and there is a charge for this session led by a qualified teacher and assistant.

SEASCALE SESSIONS – Are currently held at the Methodist Church Hall

MILLOM SESSIONS – Are held at Millom Guide Hall

As well as the above, there are also organised trips, residentials and outdoor adventure days.

If you would like information on any of the sessions please call Rachel on 019467 27887 or 07554 610558

& SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT WITH NORTHERN RAIL

Shackles Off 'I can' group is our social action project made up of a group of young women who are passionate about improving the local area and engaging their community.

This group has adopted Seascale railway station and have recently researched, designed, and implemented a mural to brighten up the community but more importantly to raise awareness around how plastics are affecting our oceans in a fun way that engages all ages of the community. They decided to focus on this issue after taking part in an informal workshop on the subject. The group has also created dog waste stations out of recyclable materials and put them up around the village to encourage people to keep the area clean and tidy. The group is currently planning ways to fundraise for a school in Gambia which will hopefully go ahead once Covid-19 restrictions ease.

Northern Rail had arranged for the artwork to be put up in late November, however because of COVID restrictions and subsequent lockdowns, this was delayed. We are awaiting confirmation from Northern Rail, but the artwork should be up at Seascale railway station late in May. We hope you enjoy them as much as the young people enjoyed producing them.





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Covid and "A Wasdale Lad"

(SEE NEXT PAGE FOR A DEPICTION OF THE BOOK'S FRONT COVER)

Even though we now have had to cancel our second planned book launch as this year's Wasdale May Festival which went the same way as last year's – I then planned to sell books in The Local History Tent at the Gosforth Show but, alas, that also is no longer going ahead – cancelled owing to Covid, However, *A Wasdale Lad* is still available:

If you would like a personalised dedication, please contact Rob on 019467 25623 / rob@pro-tector.co.uk and this along with free local delivery in the Tethera distribution area at a mutually convenient time can easily be arranged – Price, Only £10 COD

Or, *A Wasdale Lad* is available in the following outlets:

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Rob Steele – the author



A WASDALE LAD



A pictorial history of Lakeland farming life

Rob Steele

FOR AVAILABILITY OF THIS BOOK SEE BACKING PAGE 53

Scouts



2nd Seascale

Leaders take on lockdown Challenge

You may have thought that Scouting in Seascale has not been happening during all the various lockdowns and restrictions in the last year but thanks to technology it has.

At the beginning of the first lockdown, Leaders were determined that they would try and deliver Scouting online via Zoom. We won't lie – in the beginning we thought that there was no way that online meetings would be able to capture the true meaning of scouting; to be able to teach our Young People life skills and give them the adventures that face-to-face meetings do. Nearly a year on and we want to share with you some of the adventures that our Young People have experienced largely within their own homes and gardens.

Carry on Camping

Our Scout Group Camps over the last year haven't been traditional style camps and I am sure that Lord Baden Powell never dreamed of a time when Scout Camps would be done from our homes rather than in a campsite or field.

#campathome 2020 was our first online camp and as we raised the flag, we realised that our

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts were already having an amazing time. The photos of tent pitching, indoor dens and their own camp flags, had been pouring in all day for the opening slide presentation of our campsite (which was probably 7 miles wide). Little were we to know what we would experience from behind our screen during that weekend. We saw Scouts, Cubs and Beavers cooking on open fires, BBQs and in kitchens. We saw parents, Scouts and Cubs teaching their children/younger brothers and sisters how to light fires, cook and do scouting activities. It was wonderful to see that scouting was happening within their homes – not just the activities but the teaching and learning that happens at all Scout Camps.



Getting Chilly

Virtual Wintercamp 2021 gave us the opportunity to work together as a team, completing various challenges that the Wintercamp team set. Every hour 2nd Seascale took part in the many challenges; they were determined to get the points and even stuck cotton wool on their face with jam. As always, they rose to the challenge and surprised us all by coming 14th out of the 686 teams from across



the UK (and beyond). When they were not taking part in the set activities, they were setting their own challenges by visiting the online *activity zones* and choosing activities that they wanted to do. Favourite activities were making paracord Yoda's, creating giant kit kat, taking masterclass art lessons, geocaching, tie-dye t-shirts and making Origami X-wing fighters.

Marshmallows and Strawberry Laces

Every year the District put on a Scout Cooking competition, but due to not being able to meet face-to-face, an online District Challenge Day was organised for all sections. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts joined other groups within Western Lakes for a District Challenge Day. We saw some fantastic marshmallow and spaghetti constructions made by Beaver Scouts, some very tall paper towers from Cubs, and great pioneering skills from Scouts who had breadsticks



and strawberry laces as their equipment. The scores were close going into the final round and it was all down to how well our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts could bake. Leaders did not need to worry and the imagination of our Young People truly shone through in their bakes. Beavers were awarded Western Lakes District Beaver Challenge Award and the Scouts were awarded the Western Lakes District Scout Challenge shield for the second year in a row.

Scoutmaster

Liam Edgley, Cumbria Scouts County Youth Commissioner challenged all Cumbria Scouts to take part in *12 Days of Scoutmaster* just before Christmas. The idea, based on the television programme *Task Master*, Liam set a challenge each day and you had to photograph/film yourself completing the challenge.

Challenges were wild and varied including: paint/draw from two metres away; do the most *scouty* thing you can think of; do something extraordinary with a pair of trousers and create a campfire without actual fire. We had great fun participating in the twelve challenges and were delighted to be awarded *Best Scout Group* and to be part of the *Best District*.

Through delivering online scouting we have learned to never doubt what can happen with the commitment, determination and imagination of our families; we have managed to ensure that Scouting has continued within our village and that



all our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have had the opportunity to have some truly amazing adventures in their homes. Leaders are extremely proud of the achievements that our Young People have accomplished during the last year, they have won district trophies, made themselves known to the County and National Teams by taking on challenges and worked on personal challenges and badge-work. We look forward to seeing what the year ahead brings, hoping that that will involve lots of new face-to-face Adventures.

Join the Adventure

2nd Seascale Scout Group meets Seascale School on Thursday, caters for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, and has links with the local Explorer Scout unit.

To find out more, please contact:
 Neil Henderson, Scout Leader
 Info@SeascaleScouts.org.uk
 Facebook.com/SeascaleScoutGroup



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THE THREATENED CLOSURE OF THE FISHERMAN'S BRIDGE ON THE RIVER IRT...

The work on the river is being conducted by The West Cumbria Rivers Trust. The Black Wood Project is one of two on the Irt, the other being closer to Nether Wasdale at Bibby's Dub. Although all of the proposed work has been posted on their website and there are notices on the river bank and now on the Fisherman's Bridge, most local people are completely unaware of what is being planned (hence, the main reason for this piece). Personally, I have no problems with the work to slow down the river by rerouting it back into former channels to recreate two bends. But I don't believe that this has to include not replacing the bridge (which is coming to the end of its life) and the loss of the current permissive riverside path by rerouting it well away from the river on the southern side.

To draw people's attention to these proposals, I made a post on our local community Facebook page, "Gosforth and Seascale Matters" which generated a lot of interest, expressing both support for the work on the river, as well as disappointment about losing the footbridge. The West Cumbria Rivers Trust joined the group to be able to answer questions directly and also advertised three "Walks and Talks" that were taking place the following week on 1 April for those interested. Unfortunately these didn't appear to be publicised elsewhere and consequently only nine people attended. Out of these, at least six of them coming from my own direct contact!

Our group of six met at Gaterigg at 12.30 on 1 April. Our guides were one representative from The West Cumbria Rivers Trust and two from The National Trust. We were told about the aims of the project and given an opportunity to ask questions. One of these was that, as Sellafield had

Although I had heard about the proposed work on the River Irt in the Black Wood (which spans both Gosforth and Wasdale Parishes near to Peagill), it wasn't until a local retired GP posted photos of the closure notices of the Fisherman's Bridge on Facebook in March that I became aware that this beautiful riverside route was under threat.

There used to be a series of wooden footbridges crossing the river Irt – these dating back to the first half of the last century, probably put in when the farms and woodland were part of the J.B. Wrigley Estate. The Fisherman's Bridge is the last publicly accessible wooden footbridge; it is a replacement for one that used to span the river approximately 100 yards downstream. We believe it was constructed in the 1980s and was a joint project of The National Trust and Gosforth Anglers, the expertise being provided by Harry Sharp.



Ben and Red say 'Please save our bridge'
(Carolyn Sayers)



removed substantial amounts of gravel from the river from the 1960s and later, had straightened as well as speeded up the river. As the two bends being reinstated to slow the river down and improve salmon spawning grounds was partly rectifying a problem created then, couldn't Sellafield be approached for funding towards the replacement footbridge?

We then left Gaterigg and walked down the current riverside permissive path and were shown where the proposed work will take place. I asked that, rather than rerouting the permissive path onto the south bank, could it not simply go around the side of the bend that was being recreated? I was told that this wasn't the preferred option. So I asked if the driving factor was the cost of replacing the footbridge and (in spite of what the notice on the bridge says) I was told "Definitely not, the driving factor is sustainability". We were told that they are not entirely sure what will happen once the river is redirected, with one possibility being that after all the work is done the river might then cut through the hairpin bend below the Fisherman's Bridge and straighten itself, thus making what is now the south bank an island. But if this did happen then one might think that the overall effect of establishing two new bends to then lose a larger one doesn't make much sense...

We then crossed the Old Fisherman's Bridge (which is definitely showing signs of its age) and walked along the new proposed permissive path

route. This new route took us well away from the river and joined up with the lane opposite the turn for Stangends. A question was asked that if the footbridge really couldn't be replaced, then could not the new route on the south side at least stay as close as possible to the river? We were told that this had been looked at and although it would be possible that it would take more work to do.

We then walked back to Gaterigg where the walk and talk ended. We asked whether notices of plans and how these are progressing could be displayed at the car park opposite Peagill and were assured that this will happen.

In conclusion, out of our group of six, the vast majority of the group preferred replacing the footbridge and keeping the route on the north side of the river. However, if this proves to be impossible, then rerouting the new permissive path onto the top of the high bank on the southern side is preferable to the current option, this still overlooking the river, but not putting additional pressure on the fragile woodlands that we are trying to preserve.

I raised all of the above on the April zoom meeting of Gosforth Parish Council and it will be discussed in full in their next meeting. If you would like to make your own views known, please write to them as well as The National Trust and The West Cumbria Rivers Trust.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article. Rob Steele, author of A Wasdale Lad and sometimes walker of routes both far and near.

'VIRTUAL PHOENIX' – TWELVE MONTHS ON



Other than saying 'White Rabbits' on 1 March (as my mum always did), I've never been superstitious. But Friday 13 March 2020 was the last time our Gosforth-based Christian music group Phoenix Praise held a practice in the flesh – 5 years to the day since Friday 13 March 2015 when we learned that St Bees School, where my husband Keith and I were both working, was about to close.

By Wednesday 18 March 2020 we had learnt that communal worship, choirs and groups meeting in church buildings were now banned; by Monday 23rd the whole country was in lockdown. But Phoenix had a booking for the evening of Sunday 29th, at The Meeting Place (Egremont Methodist Church), so Keith and I began to wonder: could we somehow honour it over the internet?

The next day, with the help of a few willing volunteers on the other end of phone lines, we started to experiment with Zoom; like most people, we had never used it before. On the Friday we ran our first 'virtual' Phoenix practice, from the comfort of our own front room. On Sunday 29th some brave Phoenix pioneers, along with some even braver folk from Egremont, helped us get our first Zoom service off the ground, and the experience proved positive enough to encourage us to hold another service the following week. By this time it was almost Easter, so we decided we couldn't stop before then. And here we all are, more than a whole year later, with around 60 online services and almost the same number of Friday night practices under our belts.

In the intervening months we have made many mistakes and had a lot of fun learning from them. The whole enterprise, just like Phoenix itself, has become joyfully ecumenical – well over 60 people have attended the services regularly, from Anglican, Roman Catholic, URC and various independent free church congregations as well as Methodist, along with some who don't currently belong to any other church. Every age group has been represented, from the under 10s to the over 95s. One of our Phoenix members who is a student has even been able to join us while away from home at Uni. There is a big team involved in keeping the show on the road: preachers, readers, musicians and prayer-leaders, ensuring things stay varied and vibrant, and technical wizards without whom the whole thing would quickly fall to pieces. What many of us like best about it is that it is completely live and interactive; apart from the occasional backing track, nothing is pre-recorded, and we can see and hear our friends worshipping with us. Those able to stay for a while after the services can chat to each other informally and even interrogate the preacher if he/she stays too! People who are housebound, others who have moved away from the area, and even a few who have never lived in Cumbria, can all worship with us.

Of course we – well, some of us! – miss being able to hug each other, and Phoenix members in particular really miss singing together in harmony – though some of the less musical folk attending our services reckon it a bonus that others can't hear them singing at all! (Everyone has to 'mute' themselves while singing 'live' in services because of time-lag problems over Zoom – but we do all say 'The Lord's Prayer together unmuted, which is rather a muddle to say the least, but God hears each of us loud and clear.) We are sad that a few of our regular Phoenix members don't have access to the internet – though those who do have it have kept others in touch with what's been going on as far as possible, and in increasingly ingenious ways.

It seems that the light at the end of the lockdown tunnel is getting brighter at last. So where do we go next with Virtual Phoenix? Perhaps we shall all be so sick of Zoom once 'normality' returns that we never want to use it

again. But at the same time, it seems a shame to let go of all that we have learnt, and to lose the opportunity of worshipping with those who could never hope to gather with us physically. Are 'hybrid' services – simultaneously physical and virtual – the way ahead, or should we hold some services in our church buildings and others online? In the

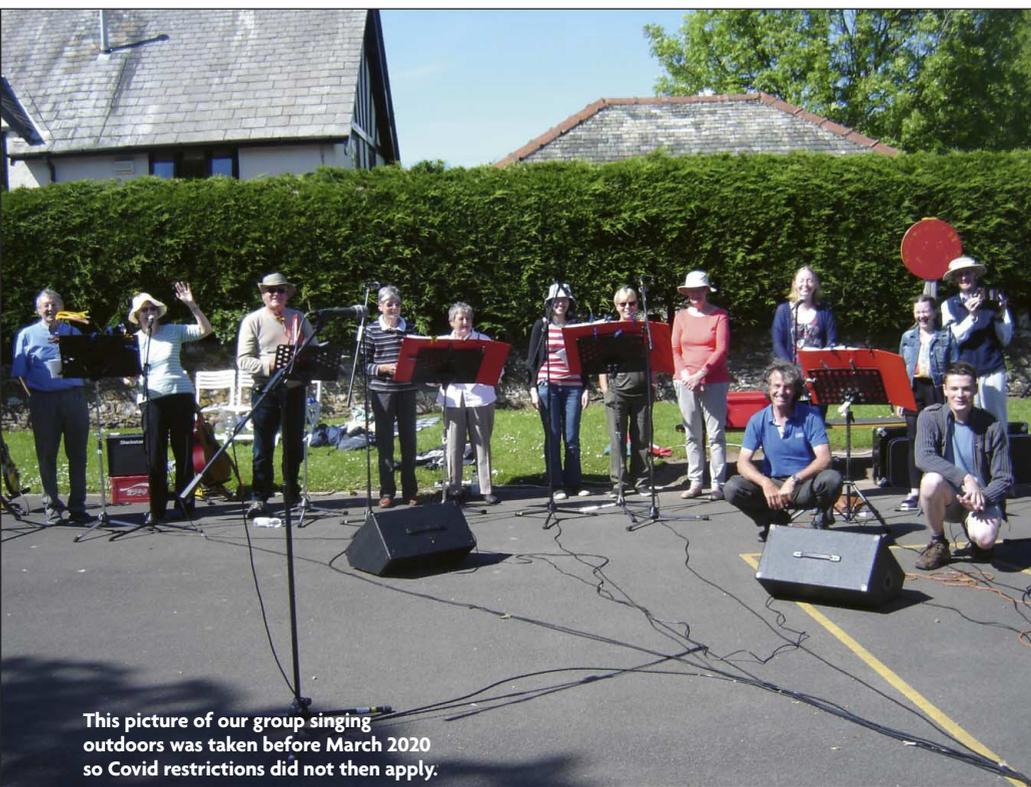


Phoenix at Egremont Methodist Church.

next few weeks we'll be posing these and other questions to all regular attenders. In the meantime, anyone else who would like to join us would be very warmly welcome. Just email

jillfhudson@hotmail.co.uk to join in, or visit our website www.phoenixpraise.org.uk to find out more about the band and about our activities both in and out of lockdown.

Jill Hudson



This picture of our group singing outdoors was taken before March 2020 so Covid restrictions did not then apply.



GOSFORTH FAMILY SETS THE BAR HIGH WITH NEW BUSINESS

Despite the hospitality industry feeling the brunt of the pandemic over the last twelve months, one entrepreneurial family decided to take over the Red Admiral restaurant in Gosforth.

The Red Admiral has been a well-known feature on the busy A595 at Boonwood for decades and has been taken over by David and Michelle Ancell from Simply Fresh Gosforth.

A revamped pub and cosy restaurant. New staff and a refresh of faces. David and Michelle hope people get excited about what's to come, and David said: "Despite the last twelve months being a challenging year, and our opening being delayed due to Covid, we are super excited to take the plunge and to re-open The Red Admiral with our chef, Lorne. We

have had a great response so far and we are looking forward to welcoming customers this summer both from the local area and hopefully from a little further afield!"

"We wanted to make the Red Admiral somewhere we would like to go. There are lots of nice places around here, but we didn't want to do





pub grub and we wanted it to feel cosy and homely with a nice welcoming atmosphere. David and I used to go to the Quince and Medlar in Cockermouth a lot when the children were young and it's one of the places I always refer to as getting it right for creating that inviting atmosphere, almost like you are sitting in someone's home. We wanted our pub to feel like that," says Michelle.

Cooking up a storm with some exquisite dishes will be 31-year-old Lorne Jeffrey, originally from Blackpool, who is eager to make his mark in the local community, he said: "I have made my way back after spending the last few years in Greece, Spain and the Netherlands. I decided to take on the role of the Head Chef at the Red Admiral, coming together with David and Michelle to deliver an exciting and seasonal menu with my own stamp.

"This will be my first head chef position in the UK, and both Michelle and David have put a lot of trust in me. I will repay this by driving the business forward, and push to be one of the best establishments in the area for food, drinks and service.

"I am traditionally French trained and will be

using these techniques along with what I have learnt from my travels – also using local ingredients where possible. I am looking forward to the opening and showing people what we have to offer."

David added: "We hope, using predominantly local suppliers, to serve some tasty and well-presented dishes where Lorne can demonstrate his passion for cooking. This will include a changing marine cuisine specials board."

Taking over from Pete and the late Maggie Lockhart, the Ancells are hopeful to be back organising events at the Red Admiral with private functions and larger events later in 2021.

In 2018 *UK Hospitality* recorded 3.1 million people working in the hospitality sector in the UK. That number is thought to be significantly lower this year with 63% of hospitality leaders laying off staff rather than bringing them back after furlough ends. This is something David and Michelle are hoping to change, providing employment opportunities in the local area to those looking for a career in hospitality, or those who have been out of work in the industry due to the pandemic.

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