

Aspatria Town Council Newsletter

June 2011

WELCOME

I take this opportunity to welcome you to the summer edition of the Aspatria Town Council Newsletter. At the Annual Meeting held on 17th May Councillor Alan Reay was elected Mayor and Councillor Marie Rose was elected Deputy Mayor for 2011/12. I had decided to step down and take this opportunity to thank you all for your kindness and support during the six terms of office. It was a privilege and time that I will always remember.

Trevor Gear
Councillor

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Aspatria Town Council News

March

Inspector Kelly gave a report on incidents in the town during the past month. It was raised that post which bears Aspatria, Wigton was on occasions being misdirected particularly where there were streets of the same name in both towns. It was agreed to bring this to the attention of the Post Office. Concerns were also expressed regarding extra HGV's travelling through the town to ASDA, the new Bio Mass Plant at Iggersund Board and possibly the High Close Quarry. It was agreed to write to the Highways Authority highlighting the councils concerns.

April

The Council agreed to donate £400.00 towards the upkeep of St Kentigern's Churchyard. The contract had been awarded to RSS for the supply and installation of the new play equipment at Victoria Park. Plans had been submitted for re-cladding the Youth Wing to which the Council had no objections. In June it will be the 15th Anniversary of the Charity Shop and it was agreed that this should be marked by an evening event to celebrate the success of the project. It was announced that all councillors who had been nominated at the forthcoming election were returned unopposed which left two vacancies.



May

The Council elected Cllr Alan Reay to be Mayor and Cllr Marie Rose to be Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year. The Mayor thanked the outgoing Mayor for the work he had done on behalf of the town during his six years of office. The Council agreed to pursue Stagecoach for the damage one of their buses caused to the bus shelter on Queen Street. The remote CCTV at Brandraw Car Park was now operational.

Aspatria Safer Stronger Community Meeting

will take place at 4.00pm on Thursday, 4th August 2011 at Aspatria Library, Aspatria

DO YOU HAVE AN EXERCISE BIKE, RUNNING MACHINE OR ROWING MACHINE

in good working order just sitting at home, longing to be used more often? If so St Kentigern's would love to borrow it for a special sponsored event in the Community Centre on Saturday 13th August. Please ring Dorothy 21899 or Lorna 21373 if you can help. And watch out for details of how to be involved in other ways in this unique fund-raising event.

Thank you

I am writing to thank the electors of Aspatria for placing their trust in me at the recent election for Allerdale Council, and to ask for their continuing support. For the benefit of readers who do not know, I topped the poll on an openly radical 'localism' manifesto. There seems to be a popular notion in this country that democracy is something that happens on a first Thursday in May and is then 'shelved' for the next four or five years while politicians get on with 'business as usual'. I would like to think that this is a misconception, but fear in many cases it is not. Whether the fault lies with the politicians or the electorate is not clear, but both sides have the ability and responsibility to make sure this does not happen. As an Independent, I have a particular problem maintaining contact with my electorate as I have no party members to support me or act as my 'eyes and ears'. I have therefore decided to establish a non party-political network of volunteers in the communities I serve who can feed emerging concerns to me and act as sounding boards as new threats and opportunities emerge. I already have a handful of willing 'community partners' in Fletchertown and Harriston as well as in Aspatria town itself, but we need more to make this work. If you think you have the potential and commitment to help re-build democracy from the grass roots up, please contact me.

Independent Councillor Bill Finlay, Aspatria Ward, Allerdale Council. Tel: 016973 21156

Aspatria Town Council - Chairman`s Report 2010/2011

The past year has been one of sadness, with horrific shooting in and around Whitehaven and the school bus crash outside of Keswick. In the summer the town also suffered the loss of Sgt David Monkhouse who was killed in action in Afghanistan. The community has supported his family and could not fail to be impressed by the solemnness and precision of his funeral. In June after a year of closure and thanks to the hard work and persistence of the two members of the Swimming Pool Committee the swimming pool opened and was enjoyed a large number of people particular our youngsters during the summer. In July we held our annual Civic Service in St Kentigern`s Church which was again well attended by the Mayor of Allerdale, Mayors from surrounding towns, the Deputy Leader of Allerdale Borough Council and other dignities.

This year the annual senior citizens trip went to Blackpool. The weather was relatively kind to us and most if not all people enjoyed the day. My thanks go to Cllr. Tinnion who looked after one of the buses.

During the summer the Youth Wing with support of the Council again ran events for our young people in Memorial Park while our Evening Supervisor organised activities during the evening.

The Best Kept Garden competition was again sponsored by the Cumberland Building Society and produced the usual crop of winners. We thank the building society for their sponsorship, their assistance with the judging and in making the presentations.

In late summer in partnership with the local social landlords the council purchased a number of grit bins which were filled by the County Council but little did we know how well they would be used during the coming winter months.

We also heard that our Allerdale Councillors had been successful in obtaining funding for new play equipment in Victoria Park. This is due to be completed by June.

Remembrance Sunday Parade and following service were very well attended by the various organisations and our residents. The parade and service were particularly significant this year with a wreath being laid in church until a permanent memorial to Sgt Monkhouse is in place.

The annual Light for a Life Service took place in the Methodist Chapel on 5th December which was followed by the Christmas lights switch on. Father Christmas visited Harriston and the main streets of the town before assisting with the actual `switch on`. We thank Sealy UK for the bed as first prize for our free drawing and the growing group of businesses who made donations towards the ever increasing cost of the lights.

The Senior Citizens Christmas Treat was held on 14th December in the Masonic Hall when over 100 residents enjoyed a meal, free raffle, entertainment by Roe Valley and of course the obligatory game of Bingo. Everybody seemed to have a good afternoon. I thank my fellow councillors and everybody who made donations or helped in any way to make the afternoon another success.

The Council during the year has given financial support to a number of local organisation including Neighbourhood Watch. I thank Cllr Finlay for re-vitalising the scheme in the Town.

During the first week of March various organisations were involved in running a `Together We Can Week` which brought a number of agencies together to produce a week of events and showcase their work in the Community. Cllr Finlay and others are working together to ensure the spirit of the week is not lost.

The Town Council is active in the Aspatria Rural Group, a group of seven Parish Councils which has employed Shirley Muir to produce a community plan for the area with a view of drawing down funding for the projects identified in the plan.

We remain concerned regarding the appearance of the Youth Wing and the effect that it is having on the pupils, staff and visitors to Beacon Hill School and particularly the very uncertain future of the swimming pool both of which are owned by the County Council.

Speeding traffic and poor behaviour of some drivers particularly in and around Brandraw Car Park have been again identified as a priority by the police but despite a number of arrests and persons reported for summons little progress has been made. The Council with some financial support from the police now have installed remote CCTV on the Library which covers the Car Park

The council continue to negotiate with the Borough Council over the future ownership of Queen Street Car Park and working in partnership to improve the accessibility of the toilets in the town. Unfortunately at this time these negotiation appear to have stalled.

During the year the Mayors Charity has been to raise money to improve disabled facilities in St Kentigern`s Church and I was pleased to present a cheque for nearly £200 to that cause.

Michael our town caretaker continues to improve the appearance of the town and I thank him for his hard work, flexibility and conscientiousness.

During the year a number of residents gave up their time to assist in looking after the park and delivering the newsletters and I take this opportunity to thank them for their support without which we would have difficulty in ensuring delivery of the newsletter to ever house in the Town.

I also thank all my fellow councillors for their support particularly Councillor Rose for being the interim Deputy Mayor, Councillor Reay as Chairman of the Parks and Allotments, Councillor Barker as editor of the Newsletter.

Last but not least I also thank Allison for her hard work and the excellent support she gives the council.

NEWS & VIEWS FROM ST KENTIGERN'S CHURCH

Vicar: The Revd Clive Shaw, The Vicarage, King Street, tel 20398

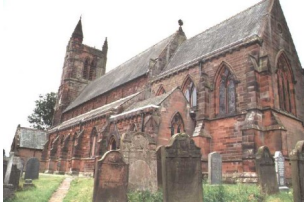
Reader: Mrs Brenda Gear, Brandraw Mount, Market Sq, tel 21935

Associate Priest: The Revd Canon David King

A Towering Achievement – nearly! Please can you help us finish the job...?

As we go to press, work is well under way at St Kentigern's to renew the tower roof with conservation grade materials, and to create level access, tea prep area and WC at a total cost of just under **£85,000**. Thanks to Trevor Gear's persistence nearly **£77,000** in grants has been promised. So **we urgently need c£8000** to pay the final bill. The PCC have designated **Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st July as Gift Days**. The work should be close to completion and the **church will be open** for people to come and see for themselves and leave a gift. We hope to offer **tours up the tower** (for the best view in Aspatria!) and on Sunday, Afternoon Teas will be served in the Community Centre.

Confirmation...



*St Kentigern's
Picture courtesy of
Steve Bulman*

On 29th May in St Kentigern's, Bishop Richard Henderson confirmed Stefan Clarke, Ross Barton, Oliver Clark, Jack Rowney, Kieran Rowney, Lois Charters, Rebecca Berwick, Neave Ritchie, Scott Jefferson, Sophie Jefferson, Samuel Hignett, Lisa Hignett, Thomas Barnes, Marie Barnes, Carol Muckley and Terrance Sewell. Bishop Richard, formerly Bishop of Tuam in Ireland and now Vicar of Appleby, reminded everyone that just as a seed has to let the moisture in to break down and restructure its constituent parts before it can become a glorious flower, so we need to let God in to our lives to work in us so that we might truly become the people God intended us to be. **Open each day for you...**

St Kentigern's is normally open each day for private prayer, and for visitors to look round, from 9am to late afternoon. There is a book in which to write prayer requests, which

are offered to God during our daily Morning Prayer at 8.30am, to which all are welcome. **Welcome to Worship** Our main Sunday act of worship is at **9.30am: a Sung Eucharist** on 1st and 4th Sundays, **Morning Prayer** on 3rd Sundays, and **All-Age Worship** on the 2nd Sunday of each month. This is more informal and interactive, a good opportunity to bring children, grand-children and god-children to worship together. On 5th Sundays **Together@10** goes to different churches in turn and on 31st July we will all be at St Mary's, Gilcrux. Please contact the Vicar regarding **Baptisms**. **Be in 'The Link'** Further details of all worship and church activities are in our monthly magazine 'The Link', which costs 40p and can be delivered to your home. Please contact Mrs Judy Wood, on 21998.

National Neighbourhood Watch Week

We have recently been informed that there will be a **National Neighbourhood and Home Watch Week** from Saturday 18th to Sunday 26th June 2011.

Locally the Police are planning:

- a Coffee Morning for older members of the community at which a Home Safety/Crime Prevention video will be shown
- a 'Big Lunch' community event in the Park

Details are yet to be finalised – look out for them in mid June.

Aspatria Neighbourhood Watch is holding its June meeting as an 'open' session at which members of the public who do not normally attend are invited to participate. This meeting is on: Thursday 23rd June at 4pm in the Local Links Library

In addition and subject to fundraising, we hope to be able to afford to leaflet all those parts of the town that do not presently have a dedicated coordinator.

The 'job' of a coordinator is to receive automated messages from the Police – either by 'phone or email – and pass them on to a number of neighbours. Following our last recruitment drive in February and March this year we now have 58 members, 28 of whom are coordinators.

However, their spread is 'patchy' - some neighbourhoods have an ample supply of coordinators while others have none.

If you want to become a member or coordinator, look out for our leaflets in June or contact:

Bill Finlay,

Chair: Aspatria Neighbourhood Watch.

Tel: 017693 21156

Email: aspatrianw@gmail.com



On Saturday 26th March 2011 Aspatria Fire fighters held their first 'Fire Fighters Charity Car Wash' event on Brandraw Car Park, Aspatria. Between 08:30 hrs - 15:00 hrs they washed 92 cars and raised an amazing £514.10. The team managed to collect names & addresses from all those donating and with 'Gift Aid' the total amount raised to £642.00. They also took several appointments for free home fire safety visits. Thank you to all who participated and donated during the day. Watch out for the next event to be held in September 2011.



**Conservation Work Party – Beacon Hill Students,
Quarry Banks Nature Reserve, Cumbria
2011**

A fantastic opportunity to develop conservation skills by working alongside Cumbria Wildlife Trust rangers was recently arranged for Beacon Hill Community School students. The purpose of the visit was to compliment the students ASDAN conservation studies. The students got the opportunity to help the reintroduction of grazing to the site. They assisted in restoring and maintaining Quarry Banks grassland by helping to install a new fence and clearing away brambles and brushwood.

The students all worked really hard and were a credit to the school. Kevin Scott, Reserves Officer for Cumbria Wildlife Trust, had the following to say about our students work "I had a look at the fence line along the quarry and it's great to have that done as it will mean I can get straight into the fencing there. The students worked well helping us to erect the new fence. I'm glad everyone enjoyed the day, as did I, and I am really pleased with the way everyone got stuck in and worked hard. Please pass on my thanks to all. "



Well done to all those who undertook this challenge. Below is a photo of two of our students at the site knocking in a fence post.

G. Skillicorn
ASDAN Co-ordinator
Beacon Hill Community School
Tel: 016973 20509
gskillicorn@beaconhill.cumbria.sch.uk

Barnardo's Children's Centre, Aspatria

This years **big toddle** – with an animated theme, Tuesday 28th June. Barnardo's big fundraising event of the year, when we ask our families to get sponsors and then 'toddle' around the park, weather permitting. We start from the Community Centre at 10 am, Sponsor forms available from Stay & Play or the Children's Centre. Our **Fun with Fabrics** course finishes 15th June, this has proved popular with parents, who have enjoyed 'getting creative' with fabric for the home and family. If this strikes a chord with you please phone or e-mail to register your interest for next time. **Other Dates:** Monday 20th June 1.30 till 2.30 - Baby Massage course over 4 weeks. Friday 17th June 10 till 11.30 **A Weaning Party** – One day only - Mother and baby welcome **Please Phone the Centre to book a place for the above Breastfeeding Peer Support** is Available with Kerry Newham, she has a drop in on a Monday morning in Aspatria Centre 10 till 11.30 (term time), contact Kerry on 22777/22771 **Stay and Play sessions** continue with a change – it is now £1 per family, But it is still term time, 10 am to 11.30 in the Community Centre. **The Toy Library catalogue** is available at these sessions as well as in the Centre; Membership fee £1. Changes too with the Dad's Group, it is still 10 till 11:30am, on a Saturday morning but will mostly be held in Wigton Children's Centre. **There is a visit to Wigton's fire station**, Saturday 28th May, then the next session is 'Let's get cooking' in Silloth Children's Centre, 2nd July. Dad, bring your under 5 year old, with older siblings welcome; Contact Dougie 49555 **Dates for the summer: Playschemes:** for school age children, in the Community Centre, places need to be pre-booked. Monday 1st and 8th August, 10 till 11.30 with special afternoon sessions, for children with disabilities, in the Children's Centre, those afternoons. 1.00 till 2.30 - Contact Jenny or Lynne to book. 22777/49555 **The Family Fun Session** is Monday 15th August 10 till 11.30 – A chance for all the family to get creative together.

**Your local Allerdale Borough Council street scene officer and environmental warden
How can they help?**

John Somerset is your local street scene officer; he regularly patrols the area and responds to residents' requests for replacement domestic bins and can give advice on waste and recycling queries. Allerdale Borough Council can also arrange assisted collections for residents who may have difficulties in placing their bins out. John can help in resolving this and other such problems. As Allerdale Borough Council's street scene officer in your area, John can respond to concerns over litter and general street cleanliness including dog fouling. He will also help to investigate reported incidents of fly tipping and arrange for removal.

John works closely with Helen Graham, Allerdale Borough Council's environmental warden for the area. Helen can arrange for additional litter bins to be fitted in your area, as well as replacing damaged ones. In addition, she will respond to problem areas of littering and dog fouling and will act upon information provided by residents on offenders.

Allerdale Borough Council's environmental warden can also investigate noise complaints such as excessive dog barking. Both Helen and John are happy to support local communities in any projects and initiatives aimed at improving the environment. They can offer practical help through giving advice on recycling, responsible dog ownership and support for school projects.

Please call: John Somerset, Allerdale Borough Council's **Street scene officer**, on 01900 702961.
Helen Graham, Allerdale Borough Council's **Environmental warden**, on 01900 702811

Have a say in local issues visit
www.aspatrias-voice.co.uk
Giving Aspatria its voice back.

Allerdale Crunch Service
Saturday 9th July
Saturday 13th August
Saturday 17th September
11am - 2pm
Queen St Car park, Aspatria.

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