

Causewayhead W.I.

Report by: Carole Haines

February 2006

The president Pat Bell opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Apologies for absent members were made and accepted, the minutes were read, and the business of the meeting was discussed.

The speaker for the evening, Mr. Graham Proud was introduced, and gave a talk and slide show on the history and birds of the Solway. This area was declared an area of outstanding beauty in 1964. There are ongoing projects to restore and maintain the coastline, marshes and ponds to encourage the wild life back into these areas.

One project is the restoration of environment for the Natterjack Toad which is

proving to be a success. Various schools, groups and volunteers are involved. We also learned of some of the mosses and plants that grow in these areas and are protected under this scheme. His love for his work shone through his talk and at question time, the ladies had quite a few questions for him.

A vote of thanks was made by Jean Wilson. Graham then went on to judge the flower and wildlife plate competition. Jane Cutts took 1st place in the flower and wildlife plate and 2nd place went to Rosemary Brooks in both flower and wildlife plate. The raffle was won by Pauline Nixon, Jean Gibson and Rosemary Brooks took home the grocery parcel, supper was served by the hostesses.

Allerdale Community Fund Grants

Allerdale Community Fund grant to Young Farmers

The Northern District Young Farmers Club has received a grant from the Allerdale Community Fund towards the Club's Annual Field Day. The Allerdale Community Fund panel awarded the Club a grant of £1500 towards the event, which will be held in May. The Day is a high point in the Young Farmers calendar with all 19 of the clubs in the district meeting up to take part in nearly 60 competitions. The competitions range from traditional sheep shearing and stock judging to singing a 'Bond' theme tune!

It is envisaged that around 500 Young Farmers will take part in the event.

Other Allerdale Community Fund grants allocated by the panel at their meeting on 25 January 2006 included: £200 to Wigton Youth AFC for coaching courses for volunteers; £500 to Cumberland Fellsiders for a public address system; £171 to Pennine View Sheltered Housing for purchase of new crockery; £250 for youth bands to play at Silloth Vintage Rally.

Rugby Club Redecoration

Work is well under way at Silloth Rugby Club with internal and external work being carried out. The outside of the club is having a well deserved and needed lick of paint along with new doors, fresh spouts, guttering and replacing the rotten fascia boards.

This is being done with the help of a grant from the North Allerdale Partnership and other smaller grants. Our club is in the community for use by the community and we must keep the club inside and out as comfortable, attractive, warm and safe as possible. We trust that after the works are complete we will improve the quality of comfort, etc. so those using the club will find it more welcoming.

We are also searching for grant-aid to help us replace the old heating system and shower area. At present our boiler is a nightmare, difficult to kick start, and costing too much in wasted energy, etc.



Flood Protection

Is your home flood-proof?

Allerdale Borough Council has set up a grant scheme to help towards the cost of installing floodwater barriers.

De-mountable barriers seal against doorways and airbricks to prevent the entry of floodwater and offer far better protection than sandbags.

The grant scheme offers aid of up to £100 per household to owner/occupiers who wish to apply and who have suffered damage in the past.

As the scheme is not being financed by central government, but from the Council's own resources, the money available is limited and will therefore be targeted at properties that are at most risk.

Councillor Alan Smith, Executive Member with responsibility for Emergency Planning, said: "2005 will be remembered for a long time by those who experienced storm and flood damage. At Allerdale Borough Council we are anxious to do what we can to help residents to manage flood risk and reduce the likelihood of damage to their homes.

"We work with other agencies to manage flood risk and we are keen to respond to residents' calls for help by supplying sandbags, even though we are under no duty to do so. Unfortunately, it is impossible to guarantee delivery of sandbags during storm conditions because of, for example, flooded roads or fallen trees. So it is vital that householders are prepared in advance and have the equipment necessary to protect their homes.

"With this grant we hope to help residents to protect their properties against any future possible flooding."

In some cases planning permission or listed building consent will be needed for flood protection measures. This should be obtained before applying for a grant and before carrying out the work. Please contact Allerdale Borough Council's planning officers on 01900 326546 for advice or for copies of English Heritage's design guidance on flood protection measures for historic buildings and buildings in conservation areas. Grants can be made retrospectively once a householder has installed effective flood protection fittings, subject to a short quality assurance inspection.

It is up to the individual householder to decide whether to protect their own property, but some insurance companies offer discounts where flood proofing work has been installed.

If you would like further information on the scheme, or would like an application form, please contact Mike Faulkner on 01900 326529.

Telephone the Environment Agency's 24-hour Floodline service on 0845 988 1188 for free advice on flood protection products and damage limitation.

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