

## Cumbrians Against Fluoridation

### Alan Johnson Promotes The Use Of Fluoride Throughout England

Health Secretary Alan Johnson has called for fluoride to be added to Britain's water supplies. He says "I want the NHS to do much more to prevent rather than just treat disease."

Along with 6 million people in this country the residents of West Cumbria already receive this medication without choice. Now Carlisle and the remainder of Cumbria face the same treatment.

Why add Hexafluorosilic Acid (a by product of the fertiliser industry and contaminated with lead, mercury, cadmium arsenic) to our drinking water when:-

1) In 2000 the scientists on the government's independent review of a water fluoridation at York University found that 48% of children living in fluoridated areas would have some degree of dental fluorosis [excess fluoride].

2) Baroness Hayman in 1999 (answering a question for the government) said, "dental fluorosis is a manifestation of systemic toxicity".

3) Excess fluoride is known to damage the skeleton though this may take many years to materialise depending on the levels of fluoride ingested.

Up to 50% of the daily fluoride intake remains in the skeleton for life.

Anyone living in West Cumbria for the past three decades will have significant levels stored in their body which may already be causing or contributing to health problems. Skeletal fluorosis is proven without doubt and there are widespread examples of it in those countries which suffer from groundwater with high levels of naturally occurring fluoride (Asia).

4) When limited testing took place in 1999 (financed by Cumbrians against Fluoridation) those people on a typical diet and using fluoridated toothpaste were registering levels between 3 -6mg/l.

5) In 1997 NW Water put out an information sheet on water fluoridation.

They wrote "Long term exposure to fluoride at higher concentrations between 3 and 6mg/l can lead to skeletal fluorosis". Since U.U. took over and replaced the NW Water Public Health Scientist with someone who supports fluoridation that information has been withdrawn.

6) Excess fluoride is also linked to many other areas of concern. In (Fluoride, 1998:31: 13-20) Researchers examining 112 cases of fluorosis in Ontario, Ohio, Italy and British Columbia found the following collective symptoms which tend to appear before the bones are affected; arthritis, gastric pain, headaches, blurred vision, nasal and conjunctival problems, emphysema, asthma, dermatitis, memory loss and inability to concentrate, - and more.

7) Water fluoridation has never been effectively researched yet this government has ignored its own mantra of evidence based medicine and the advice of the scientists it employed to investigate the issue at York University. Recently for the third time since the York Review[2000] leading scientists went public with their concerns about the government's [aka Dept. of Health's] determination to introduce water fluoridation on a wider scale.

In the British Medical Journal they accused the DoH of using the York findings "selectively, to give an over-optimistic assessment of the evidence in favour of fluoridation".

Sir Iain Chalmers, editor of the James Lind Library, which was set up to help people understand the evidence base of medicine, KK Cheng, professor of epidemiology at Birmingham University, and Trevor Sheldon, professor and pro-vice-chancellor at York University, say there is not enough evidence either way.

They accuse the government of "one-sided handling of the evidence" and add that "the Department of Health's objectivity is questionable", pointing out that until last year it funded the British Fluoridation Society, set up in 1969 to push for fluoride to be added to

water supplies in more areas.

8) Recent Advice from the American Dental Association has advised against making up baby formula with fluoridated water. That advice is now repeated in England but only if parents enquire.

Dianne Standen of Cumbrians against Fluoridation says "I was unaware of the damage fluoride and water fluoridation can do to teeth until two of my children showed strong signs of dental fluorosis. They went on to have the affected teeth removed and veneers put in place courtesy of the NHS. Now they are adults they face a huge dental bill every decade to maintain the veneers. Although the damage done to their teeth was very visible what is more disturbing is that there is no knowledge of the impact excess fluoride may have had on their developing bodies and how it will affect their health over time".

Contact Dianne Standen on 01900 813378

## Curate Peter Streatfield Moves On



Peter & Elaine Streatfield

Blencogo village hall was packed on February 2nd as people from the seven churches of the Solway Plain Team

(including Silloth, Abbeytown and Holme St Cuthbert's) said goodbye to long-serving curate Peter Streatfield and his wife Elaine. How loved the two of them are and how they returned that love was demonstrated at the end of the evening when Peter was so moved, he was unable to speak and Elaine had to step in and save the day.

A programme of entertainment was compered by Tim Barker. Westnewton Ladies', Silloth Men's and Silloth Gospel choir all sang and the Team Music Group played. Sheila Sandursky of Westnewton and Tim

provided some humour in dialect, Margaret Hancock of Abbeytown and Frank Devine of Silloth played violin and guitar and finally seven representatives of the seven churches sang a locally-oriented version of "Hi Ho, Hi Ho".

Surprise guest was Team Rector Rev Sharon Swain who is still seriously unwell but came out to pay tribute to Peter and Elaine and present them with a cheque for over £900. Other presentations were made by representatives of Mungo's Robins, the childrens' group Peter used to run and Westnewton school.

Celebrations continued as everyone enjoyed a banquet of food and drink including sweet or savoury pancakes and lots of puddings!

## Abbeytown Bowling Club

Twelve members of Abbeytown Indoor Bowling Club were visitors to Ireby Globe Hall on a very cold night.

Luckily the newly refurbished hall was warm and welcoming. John Armstrong welcomed the visitors and explained the format for the evening. Four games were played before a lovely supper was served and the raffle was

drawn. Winners from Abbeytown were Donald Foster, Joyce Edwards, Sylvia Asbridge and Elsie Foster. Four more games were played and for the first time at Ireby Abbeytown were the winners 47 to 33.

Malcolm Temple thanked Ireby for an enjoyable and friendly evening and invited Ireby to visit Abbeytown in March.



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