



NOVEMBER 2011

189th EDITION

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CONTROVERSIAL PLANS REVEALED!

RUSLAND MOSSES-SSSI

PROPOSED RESTORATION PLAN BY NATURAL ENGLAND

PUBLIC MEETING 21ST SEPTEMBER 2011

Report by the Chairman Giles Wingate-Saul.

I was asked to chair this meeting. I declared an interest (i) as my home overlooked the Mosses, (ii) as a trustee of RVCT which owns the Showfield and (iii) as one of the 50 committee members of RVHS which owns 20 acres of the SSSI. Natural England (NE) had undertaken to keep Minutes of the Meeting: as at 25th October I have been unable to agree the draft Minutes submitted to me.

NE set up the Rusland Reading Room with displays (including pictures of other projects), aerial photographs and maps.

At the afternoon drop-in session NE's Conservation Adviser Mr Matthew Powell addressed about 15 members of the public: his address was similar to that in the evening (see below). Mr Powell was asked whether there was a pictorial representation of the proposed landscape: he said that none was available. The effect upon the deer population was raised: Mr Boston (Deer Initiative) who was in the audience said that the herd was now very large and would be likely to leave the Mosses (for how long was unknown). An issue raised about the effect of the work on Hay Bridge Mosses on trout migration was left for separate investigation.

In the evening about 69 people were present (including seven from NE). Mr Powell illustrated his address by Powerpoint. He said that the Rusland Mosses are made up of three domes (Rusland, Hulleter and Hay Bridge). They are rare estuarine mosses which are ideal for the natural creation of sphagnum moss which, if in good condition, support a rich variety of flora and fauna. The Mosses were subject to a number of SSSI's. He said that examination had shown that parts of the Mosses were in sub-optimal condition and that the NE were intending to pursue a scheme which would restore them to an acceptable condition. To do this the water level on the domes of the Mosses had to be raised so that sphagnum moss could grow and suitable lagg areas created around the domes. This would involve large earth works, blocking of peat cuts, changes to watercourses and the felling and removal of large numbers of trees (including especially Scots pines). This work of raising the water levels and felling trees would have to be carried out by the relevant landowners and NE would offer grants under individual HLS agreements with landowners (a) to pay for the work and (b) on an (undefined) continuing basis thereafter. Mr Powell said that NE had already commissioned a report from JBA Consultants which had had been circulated to affected landowners:

He said that he did not accept the Consultants' recommendation for fixed weirs in the watercourse around the boundary of the Rusland dome.

In answer to a question as to the availability of a pictorial representation of the impact Mr Powell indicated that NE presently had no funds to enable it to do this. In answer to a question on how much the works would cost, he said £200/300,000 based on other schemes (and later he said that a figure of £500,000 mentioned in a meeting with Mr David Archibald must have been a misunderstanding): contractors invoices would be paid by landowners and reimbursed two weeks in arrears by NE.

In answer to questions Mr Powell agreed that a licence would be needed for tree felling. The agreements with landowners would identify the areas to be felled and the licence application would identify the exact trees to be felled. Some trees not felled would die as they would find the wetter land unsuitable. He said that the felling and earthwork operations themselves would be very unsightly. He agreed that Environmental Impact Assessments would be needed: it was commented that these would have to cover a twelve month period to cover seasonal variations.

In answer to a question on the fact that HLS grants were subject to competition, Mr Powell said that schemes for mosses were priority schemes. From the floor it was pointed out that HLS grants were for a limited period. In answer to a question as to unforeseen costs to landowners for works he said that NE did not give indemnities to landowners for unforeseen costs. In answer to a question as to NE's previous non-adherence to contractual agreed payment to a farmer, Mr John Redgate (NE) accepted that NE had not adhered in some cases to agreed payment dates as to do so would have meant that SE suffered funding losses. In answer to a question about flooding upstream around Thwaite Moss and of other areas, Mr Powell said that potential effects of any scheme on flooding elsewhere would be subject to a hydrology and flood risk assessment. Mr Powell said that he had applied to an outside (unidentified) body for a grant for water level monitoring.

In answer to a question Mr Powell said that if landowners would not agree to a scheme proposed by NE for an SSSI, NE could get a court order, do the work themselves and charge the landowner. The chair pointed out that any such procedure was subject to an appeal process applicable to SSSIs. Mr Redgate said that it was the aim of NE to work with landowners. It was pointed out from the chair that it was difficult to see how NE could legally justify seeking a court order for a scheme designed to achieve conditions on the SSSIs which appertained prior to 1987 when they were created.

The chair then called for statements. Martin Curry (LDNPA) said that whilst LDNPA had a role as landowners and as the planning authority, they were also concerned to ensure that NE worked fully with the community. The chair read out a statement from Mr Richard Dobson (Whitestock Hall) expressing the view that any timber felling should not make the Valley "see through", that farming land and the Rusland Showfield should be not be adversely affected and that red deer, red squirrels bats and dormice should be protected. The chair read out a message from Mr David Archibald (Cinderhill, Rusland) that as an affected landowner he was implacably opposed to the scheme. Mr Boston (NW Deer Initiative) said that the deer population in the Valley was unsustainable.

The Chair raised the following points

- (a) The existing Water Level Management Plan (July 2001) does not seem to have been followed by NE and the desirable monitoring referred to therein had not been done:
- (b) There are not even baseline levels available:
- (c) There appears to be a singular lack of the evidence needed upon which to base the scheme:
- (d) There seemed to be a lack of visual representation that people can view to understand the visual impact.

Mr David Higgs (Crosslands, Rusland) said that NE do not appear to have sought to achieve a balance between flooding, present ecology and potential ecology: NE seem to have gone for an "all or nothing approach". Mrs Daphne Knipe (c/o Besse Bank Farm, Rusland) said that she was concerned about certainty/length of funding, wetting/flooding of farmland and damage during the works. Mrs Carol Dickinson (Colton) asked whether NE ever considered the effect upon local people/communities. The chair commented that if any public paths were closed a closure order would be needed. Mr Colin Barr (chair, Colton Parish Council) said that there were five members of the parish council present who could be used as an avenue to provide views: he also suggested that members of the community could be used to carry out the necessary monitoring. In answer to a question Mr Powell said that for reasons of confidentiality he could not say which (if any) landowners were in favour of the proposals.

Mr Antony Meanwell (The Syke, Rusland: secretary RVHS) said that it was a positive that NE wanted to spend money in the area. It was however very disappointing how difficult it had been to persuade NE to agree to this public meeting. NE had to try much harder to communicate properly with the community and to deal with its concerns.

Future Action

In summary the chair said that NE needs to prepare its next proposal based on appropriate evidence. This had then to be adequately described to the community in plan, photograph and montage form so that the community can properly understand what NE is proposing: it also needed to be supported by evidence. When this had been achieved, then a further public meeting was necessary. He commented that from what Mr Powell said these steps would require NE to obtain further funding.

It was agreed that a liaison group should be formed separate from the landowners and the members would be: Mr Giles Wingate-Saul, Mr Bobbie Dobson, Mr Antony Meanwell, Mr Mike Thwaites and Mr Mike Benham.

A preliminary list of over 22 species/categories was then compiled from suggestions put forward by those present. These would need to be considered under any Environmental Impact Assessment required for the felling licence and for any other activities affecting the Mosses.

Mr Powell commented that as this was a consultation exercise, NE would welcome suggestions from the community.

RED HOT ROCK WITH MID LIFE CRISIS

The Eagle's Head - 9pm - Saturday 12th November.
Collection in aid of First Responders.

COLTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Bouth speed limits: Councillors and Clerk met with County Highways officers in Bouth on 13th September to discuss the issue of speeding traffic in the village. You may remember that the Parish Council survey of households in Bouth revealed a strong preference for a 20mph speed limit past the playground. It seems that 20mph zones now have to be accompanied by traffic calming measures (bollards, speed bumps, etc.) which may not be desirable and are also costly to install. A 30mph limit would also cost around £6,000 because of the requirement to place 2 double-sided signs at each village entry/exit (that's 8 signs for Bouth!). Highways have insufficient funds and our County Councillor's own budget is very limited. After much discussion, the most likely solution seems to be the placing of two '20's plenty' signs on the main route into/out of Bouth; this is an advisory limit only, but these signs have been shown to reduce speed significantly. More news in due course.

Tottlebank traffic: We also asked the Highways officers to visit and discuss the problems with speeding traffic and large trucks on the road from the A590 ('Bouth Road Ends') to Tottlebank. Sat-navs have made this even more of a 'rat-run' in recent years and the width restriction signs are 200 yards up from the A590. There have been frequent near-misses with farm stock on the road, and damage to walls is also commonplace. We have asked for an assessment of the problem and, specifically, that the width restriction sign is moved down to the A590 turn to say 'width restriction ahead'. We await developments.

Nibthwaite now has a smart new notice-board made by local craftsman Peter Helme. It has been fixed to the barn wall next to our equally smart refurbished phone box, lovingly restored and painted by David Oldham of Oxen Park.

Government's Draft National Planning Policy Framework: Your Council's response to this consultation can be viewed on the website.

Our next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 5th December, 7.30 pm at Rusland Reading Rooms.

Mandy Lane, Clerk, Tel: 01229 861408,

coltonpc@btinternet.com

Web: www.coltonparishcouncil.org.uk

HAWKSHEAD PRE-SCHOOL

NEW YOUNG RECRUITS REQUIRED!

We are now taking children from the age of 2 years for half day sessions. We are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.00 am to 3.00 pm. Please contact Tracey for further information 07796113059 or her home no 015394 36353. Parents and toddlers also welcome to come for a play at Toddler group on Tuesday mornings 9.30 am – 11.30 am (we can be found in the green building within the grounds of Hawkshead School).

ELIZABETH FINN CARE CHRISTMAS FAIR

9 and 10th November - The Netherwood Hotel, Grange.
Books, Fine Foods, Cashmere, Toys, Christmas Decorations, Interesting Gifts and much much more to choose from, with full disabled access.

A great opportunity to do some Christmas shopping and have lunch with friends at the Netherwood Hotel. The proceeds of the Christmas Fair will be used to help all the local beneficiaries who live in Cumbria and North Lancashire.

RUSLAND AND DISTRICT WI

At the October meeting, the speaker was Janet Smith on "The Cavendish Ladies of Holker".

The next meeting is the Annual Meeting at Rusland Reading Rooms on 15th November.

The Annual Dinner is at The White Hart, Bouth on Wednesday 23rd November and the Carol Evening is at Satterthwaite Church on Tuesday 13th December.

OXEN PARK CINEMA CLUB

MADE IN DAGENHAM will be shown on 1st November at Finsthwaite Village Hall.

On 17th November there will be a Children's Film Club performance at Leven Valley School at 4pm - film to be announced.

HOW I ENDED THIS SUMMER is showing on 6th December at Rusland Reading Rooms.

SATTERTHWAITE PARISH COUNCIL

At the October meeting the Council considered the public representation about the Stricely Fell planning application and decided to oppose the development on the basis that there were no other agricultural buildings in the vicinity and that the construction materials were not compatible with the environment and would create a visual intrusion for footpath users. The Police reported that although crime was at a very low level there was an increased effort towards preventing poaching. The Police had also started online meetings with the public. Information can be found at <http://www.cumbria.police.uk/contact-us/online-meetings>

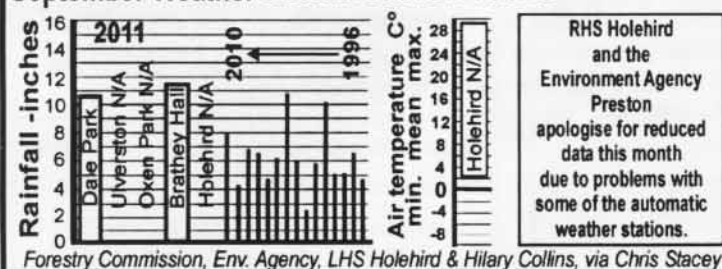
Grants were paid to the Church for maintenance of the graveyard and to the Play Area.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday January 16th 2012, 7.30pm at Satterthwaite Parish Room

David Granville (Clerk) 01229 860397

Website www.satterthwaitepc.org.uk

September Weather Grizedale / Dale Park / Holehird



CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends,

Remembrance Day approaches (this year 11.11.11). We will remember the ultimate price paid by brave men and women in two world wars and in other conflicts. It is important to remember this, both as a means of giving thanks and as an attempt to at least learn some lessons from history. We remember that every single casualty in war was someone's son or father, husband or lover, and that each war office telegram, each official letter of sympathy was heart-breaking. We have no right to call any of those casualties of war 'ordinary', for each one of us is extraordinary, each an individual made in the image of God.

And perhaps we might think of this. The word remember is not just the opposite of forget. It is also re-member, the opposite of dismember. In some ways, to re-member somebody is to do what all the King's horses and all the King's men couldn't do to Humpty-Dumpty: put him together again. Ultimately of course this is what only God can do. Both meanings of remember lie at the heart of a service of remembrance.

To be re-membered is our destiny, to be recreated, made anew, put together again. That is what God does, he re-members us and those who have gone before us, recreates us, remakes us, so that we can share the life of his Kingdom.

It is also our hope and prayer that God will help the human race re-member, put back to together again a broken world. A world in which tragically there are still men and women needing to make the ultimate sacrifice.

John
The Vicarage, Hawkshead, 015394 36301. jjcedixon@btinternet.com

Sunday		Colton			Rusland		Satterthwaite
November	6 th	10.30	Morning Worship	2.45	British Legion Remembrance Service	9.45	Holy Communion
	13 th	10.30	Remembrance Service	11.15	Holy Communion	6pm	Service of Remembrance
	20 th	9.30	Communion	5pm	Evensong	9.45	Service for All Ages
	27 th	9.30	Communion	11.15	Holy Communion		No Service

Sunday			Hawkshead				Sawrey
November	6 th	8am	Holy Communion 1662	6pm	Wholeness and Healing	11.15	Holy Communion
		9.30	Service for All Ages		Hawkshead Methodist Chapel		
	13 th	10.50	At the War Memorial	6pm	Evensong	9.30	Service of Remembrance
		11.00	Service of Remembrance				
	20 th	9.30	H.C. with Sunday School	6pm	Evensong	11.15	Holy Communion
	27 th	9.30	H.C. with Sunday School	6pm	Evensong	6pm	Evensong

"A MAGICAL PUDDING EVENING"

SATURDAY 19TH NOVEMBER IN RUSLAND READING ROOMS AT 7.30PM

Magic Show - Masses of Puddings - Glass of Wine - Quiz - Raffle

In aid of Rusland and Satterthwaite Churches.

Tickets £8. Children £5 - Contact any member of the P.C.C.'s

SATTERTHWAITE PARISH ROOM

The popular annual quiz will be held on Saturday, 21st January 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Room.

Tickets £6, to include supper, available from Hilary Collins, Kevin Baverstock or any member of the committee.

LA SERENATA ENSEMBLE

A small but very appreciative audience enjoyed an evening of music for voice, flute and piano performed with great panache by this talented trio. Classical favourites by Mozart, Schubert, Bizet, Delibes, Elgar, Bridge, Rutter and Finzi blended effortlessly with music from *My Fair Lady*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, *Showboat*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and *Les Miserables*. £80 was raised for Satterthwaite Church.

LEVEN VALLEY SUPPORT GROUP FOR ST MARYS HOSPICE - VOCE AT THE CAFÉ AMBIO

A huge thanks to everyone who supported the evening which raised a fantastic amount of £630 for the hospice.

SAVE MONEY ON 0870 PHONE CALLS - Do you object to paying premium telephone rates? Then why not check www.saynoto0870.com to see if you can find a cheaper number to ring. Click on the 'search to find an alternative number' box on the top left hand side of the home page.

If you have an 'inclusive landline calls' phone package, then it is very rare for 08 type numbers to be included in your 'free minutes' allocation, and many mobile phone packages also exclude the 0800 freephone numbers from their bundled minutes. Many companies offer an alternative number to the 08's that can be used when calling from abroad. This usually begins in the format +44 but there is nothing to stop you using this number from within the UK. Using the +44 number will be included in any inclusive minutes provided by your landline or mobile phone provider and save you money.

Free, confidential advice and help is available on any aspect of this article as well as debt, benefits, employment, and any other problems. You can contact the Grange or Windermere Citizens Advice Bureau by phone or in person. Call 015395 33100 / 015394 46464 or www.cumbriaruralcab.org.uk

DIARY DATES.

Nov.	Tues	1st	Oxen Park Cinema Club - <i>Made in Dagenham</i> - Finsthwaite Village Hall - 7.30pm
	Tues	8 th	Mothers' Union - Mince Pies and Carols - Haverthwaite Village Hall - 2pm
	Wed	9 th	Elizabeth Finn Care Christmas Fair - Netherwood Hotel, Grange - 6pm to 8pm
	Thurs	10 th	Elizabeth Finn Care Christmas Fair - Netherwood Hotel, Grange - 10am to 3.30pm
	Sat	12 th	Red Hot Rock with Mid Life Crisis - The Eagles Head, Satterthwaite - 9pm
	Tues	15 th	Rusland and District WI - Rusland Reading Rooms - 7.30pm
	Thurs	17 th	Oxen Park Cinema Club - Leven Valley School - 4pm - Film to be announced.
	Sat	19 th	A Magical Pudding Evening - Rusland Reading Rooms - 7.30pm

GRIZEDALE HALL P.O.W. CAMP

I'm a Bristol-based television producer planning to make a documentary programme about German POW camps in Britain during World War 2. The first one, established for the use of German officers, was at Grizedale Hall. I appreciate that the Hall no longer exists but I'm interested in tracking down people who may have memories of the camp or the Hall, perhaps because they worked there or worked in the vicinity. I would be very grateful if you could contact me if you have any stories to tell.
James Garrett - 07710 025 290/ james.g.garrett@btinternet.com

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR - Please remember that the next edition covers December and the first half of January. If you have any news items or Christmas and New Year events that need to be included, please let me have them in good time, as space could be at a premium.

Last date for items for Dec/Jan edition, 25th November. Send to: Liz Cringle Tel - 01229 860274, email; liggerc@hotmail.com; Colin Barr - Oxen Park Tel: 01229 861408, email: cjb@barrecol.co.uk; Elsie Wilkinson - Crosslands Tel: 01229 860253; Frances Townsend - Pepper House Tel: 01229 860206, frances.townsend@virgin.net; Sylvia Chadwick - Monks Cottage Tel: 015395 31685

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