

After the Floods

Nothing had prepared the people of Cumbria for the devastation of the January storms and floods that swept through the region.

According to United Utilities, a total of 178,000 customers lost power in Cumbria and a small area of north Lancashire.

But the Carlisle district was by far the worst affected area with almost 2,000 homes and business affected by the flooding, about 110 of them in the rural area.

During the emergency phase, the City Council worked with the emergency services and other partner organisations to rescue people and create safe havens providing food and shelter to those flooded out of their homes.

Tonnes of rubbish had to be removed and debris cleared from streets and pathways.

After the immediate threat to life was over, the authority went into the recovery phase, offering help and support to householders and business people.

Now, we are in the renewal phase and there are some clear priorities; housing and homelessness, business recovery, environmental and a range of welfare issues and helping communities to have confidence in the future. The authority is also working closely with the Environment Agency on improvements to the flood defences.

The City Council has set up a cross-party group to monitor Carlisle's progress during recovery and at the Carlisle City Council meeting on 8 March, an assurance was given that attention would also be paid to those rural areas of the district that had been affected.

Welcome

This edition of Rural Voice has a wide variety of items from Community Safety to new licenses for village halls. There is an update on an affordable housing survey carried out in the New Year and the announcement of Fairtrade status for Brampton.

If you have comments on the content or format of the newsletter, or wish to submit an article for a future edition, contact Judith Derbyshire, Rural Community Support Officer, on 01228 817355 or e-mail judithde@carlisle.gov.uk. Deadline for copy is Thursday 12 May 2005.

Photographs courtesy of Charlie Hedley and Carlisle City Council

Rural Community Support is on-going



Rural Community Support is continuing while Claire Rankin, Carlisle City Council's Rural Community Support Officer is on maternity leave

Claire had a baby boy, Jacob, on Sunday 6 February and he weighed

7lb 6oz, both are doing well. Judith Derbyshire (pictured with David Beaty, Economic Development Manager at the City Council) took on the role of Rural Community Support Officer at the start of this month.

Previous work included 21 years at the National Trust where she was involved with property and woodland management.

She said: "I feel very strongly about supporting rural communities, part of it is down to the fact that I have lived and

worked in rural areas all my life. I will certainly miss the Red Squirrels and the Greater Spotted Woodpecker who I could see from my office window at Ullswater. I do know Carlisle District fairly well as my parents lived in Brampton."

Judith's main priority to begin with will be to work on the Parish and Village Hall grants and Cumbria County Council's funding.

You can phone Judith Derbyshire on 01228 817355 or e-mail judithde@carlisle.gov.uk.

Rural Community Safety Officers

Crime and disorder is not something that just happens in the city centre and the urban wards of Carlisle, it also occurs in the rural areas as well. Cumbria Police are successfully providing community safety in villages and outlying areas.

A team of nine community safety officers cover the Longtown, Brampton and Dalston areas from Burgh-by-Sands across to Waterhead and up to Bewcastle.

The team has been up and running for three years, looking into people's concerns and complaints. This could be crime such as thefts and burglaries or assessing speeding and parking problems.

Different areas have different issues, a noise from a pub or youngsters meeting up in areas just to hang out.

Sergeant Sue Jamieson, based at Brampton Police Station, said: "We want to be as visible and approachable as possible so that people can either stop us

when they see us or can pick up the phone and talk to an officer. In both cases, there will be an assigned officer that a person can deal with through to the conclusion of the matter.

"We work with different groups and agencies, such as parish councils, schools and Help the Aged, to target and tackle the issues as they arise and to also put in place some longer term initiatives to reduce the likelihood of repeated incidences."

There is a mobile police station, which visits 29 villages over a month for the public to drop in for advice and a chat. Three officers also travel around on mountain bikes, they are very visible having the advantage of being faster than on foot and can get to more places than a patrol car.

For more information about Community Safety, visit the Cumbria Police website www.cumbria.police.uk. To find out where your community safety team is based call 01768 891999.



New licences for village hall events

New legislation is now in place, which affects village, community and school halls that sell alcohol and provide entertainment, music and dancing.

The Licensing Act 2003 has changed the system of licences and notices issued by the Magistrate Courts and public entertainment licences issued by the City Council. Carlisle City Council now issues all licences.

All hall committees now need to look at the events and facilities that they offer so they can decide what type of licence to apply for. The options include:

- Premises Licence with Grandfather rights
- Premises Licence with Grandfather rights and a variation
- Premises Licence New Application
- Temporary Events Notice

To find out more about applying for the right licences, visit the City Council's website www.carlisle.gov.uk, e-mail licencing@carlisle.gov.uk or telephone 01228 817523.

Brampton celebrates Fairtrade Town Status

Brampton has achieved Fairtrade Town status, one of the first 100 towns to receive this award. It has secured support from many of the town's businesses, churches, schools and clubs in Brampton who are helping to improve the lot of the world's small producers of foods such as coffee, tea, chocolate, bananas and fruit juices as well as cotton goods, by using products bearing the Fairtrade Logo.

The town organised a number of events for Fairtrade fortnight (1-13 March) including a fashion show at William Howard School with jewellery, clothing and

refreshments all Fairtraded.

They also organised a Fairtrade Dinner on 11 March with guest speaker, Simeon Greene, a Winward Islands Banana producer, who told guests how Fairtrade directly helps producers in developing countries. The meal was prepared using Fairtrade, local and organic produce with Fairtrade wine and coffee.

For more information about Brampton Fairtrade, contact Sue Wilkins, Chair of Brampton Fairtrade Steering Group on 016977 2452.

Venues needed for seminars



Cumbria Farming and Wildlife Group (FWAG) is a registered charity providing practical, confidential conservation advice to farmers and landowners of all sizes to promote environmentally responsible farming.

It also plays a very important role in raising awareness of environmental, agricultural and wildlife issues not only to its members but to the general public as well.

FWAG is looking for venues such as village halls to hold its seminars and training days.

If you have a venue that you think may be suitable, contact Michelle Wiggins on 01900 828684 or e-mail michelle.wiggins@fwag.org.uk



New Outreach worker helping volunteers

2005 is the Year of the Volunteer and Carlisle Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) has appointed a new Outreach Worker to reach and recruit new volunteers.

Julie Mosley will be joining CVS to promote volunteering to potentially isolated people in disadvantaged areas and also young people. This is part of a Home Office funded project 'Reach, Recruit and Retain'.

Julie is currently working as a Project Assistant for the Croftlands Trust, a Cumbrian based charity that supports a wide range of people who have mental health issues.

She said: "I have always been involved in voluntary work ever since leaving school over various lengths of time. I recently worked with a group of volunteers to carry out conservation work for the National Trust. My volunteer work has been an advantage in

my paid jobs and my employers have certainly benefited from my commitment."

Julie starts her outreach work on 1 April and, early on, she will be going out into the rural and urban areas of Carlisle to recruit people willing to give some of their time to groups and organisations.

She will be mainly working with community groups, which involve 16 to 25-year-olds and also other groups supporting people with mental, learning and physical disabilities.

Any organisations or community groups from the rural areas who are looking for volunteers can contact Julie Mosley or Judith Holmshaw at Carlisle Volunteer Centre on 01228 512513, e-mail enquiries@carlislevb.org.uk or visit their website at www.carlislevb.org.uk.

Publications on-line

Parish Councils can get reports, guidance notes and other publications all at the touch of a button at www.info4local.gov.uk.

This website, run by six Government departments and lead by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, provides local authorities with quick and easy access to information from more than 50 government departments, agencies and public bodies.

On an initial browse through its Rural Issues publications pages, there are a number of documents published by the Countryside Agency specifically to help Parish Councils.

These are:

- **Is your Parish Council well connected?** – a summary of the key benefits of Parish Planning
- **An example of how a Parish Plan might work** – this is a template for parishes to use.
- **What makes a good Parish Plan?** – this report follows an investigation of Parish Plans using a selection from 1,000 plans funded by the Countryside Agency between 2001 and 2004.
- **Planning for Vital Communities:** Good practice in linking Parish Plans, market town plans and community strategies.

Homes for local people in rural areas



Initial results from two housing need surveys, carried out by Carlisle City Council, to assess the demand for affordable housing in Dalston and Carlatten & Cumrew parishes showed that more than half are in favour of an affordable housing scheme for local people.

Work is on-going to collate the data but the response so far has been very positive. In Dalston, there was a 33% response rate, with 54% of people in favour of

an affordable housing scheme for local people, 32% saying maybe and only 14% against.

There was a smaller survey at Carlatten & Cumrew, 62.5% were in favour, with 25% saying maybe and 12.5% against.

Jeremy Hewitson, Carlisle City Council's Housing Enabling Officer, said: "Affordable housing has become a major problem in many of our rural communities, due to the severe increases in property prices over the last two or three years. Local people have been priced out of the property market in their home villages and parishes. Many are young people who are looking to set up home for the first time. There is also a lack of suitable rented accommodation in many areas."

An update of the research will be reported in a future edition of Rural Voice.

Best foot forward

The East Cumbria Countryside Project (ECCP) is helping people to put their best foot forward to promote walking and enjoy the countryside.



Kellogg's Corn Flakes are sponsoring the 2005 Great Walk with professional walker Karen Churches, who will be leading the walk from John O'Groats, through Ireland and on to Lands End during the Summer. It will be carried out in stages and people of all ages and fitness levels can join her in 10km walks for charity and keep fit at the same time.

Karen will be walking through our area on Saturday 28 May 2005 at Talkin Tarn Country Park. Starting at approximately 2pm, people can take part in a 10km sponsored walk which is five laps around the Tarn.

The entry fees are: children £6, students and senior citizens £8.50 and adults £10.00. Packs are available from the Boathouse Tearoom at Talkin Tarn.

For more information, contact Phil Gray, ECCP on 01228 561601, more details about the 2005 Great Walk are available at www.great-walk.org.

Rural Women's Network Conference

The Rural Women's Network is organising a two-day National Conference, at Carlisle Racecourse on 20 and 21 April 2005 which concentrates the importance of the contribution of women in rural communities and economies as well as exploring and developing strategies to increase the participation of women in decision-making and planning.

There are more than 10 seminars and workshops for delegates to sign up to covering a range of issues such as social inequality

and health, widening participation in learning and improving employment opportunities.

For more information visit www.nrwc.org.uk or phone the Events Co-ordinator on 01768 210997 or e-mail info@nrwc.org.uk.



Carlisle Parish Councils Association Diary Dates

Executive - Wetheral Council Offices, 7.30pm.

CPCA joint meeting with City Council Executive - Orton Village Hall, 7.30pm.