

Ale Trail leads to Fell Gather

An Ale Trail around Cockermouth was launched to celebrate the involvement of Jennings Brewery as the main sponsor of this year's Fell Gather – a taste of Cumbria event on Saturday, 13th June. Stamps have been given out when people bought Jennings beer at 18 or so participating pubs, hotels and shops, and anybody who has collected eight by noon on the day of the event can claim a free bottle of Cumberland Ale at either the Jennings stand at Fell Gather or the brewery shop. Additionally, one person will be named Brewer for a Day at Fell Gather at 2pm. Gaynor Green, of Jennings, said: "We aim to support local events in our immediate community and across the county as much as possible. The connection between our own beers and water from the fells only adds to this strong local flavour." Fell Gather will also have exhibits from several other local breweries, including Keswick Brewery, Kirk Stile, at Loweswater, and the Bitter End, in Cockermouth. "The aim of Fell Gather is to explain and enjoy the food and drink that come from our landscape and celebrate all aspects of Lakeland farming," said Heather Allen, one of the organising team from the Cumbria Farmer Network. "We're hosting the finals of the Made in Cumbria Traditional Cumberland Sausage competition and we will have way more than 60 food, drink, craft and rural stalls in all." Visitors to the event will also be able to see the celebrated Pentalk Photographic Archive exhibition in the main corridor and canteen at the venue. Fell Gather will take place at Mitchell's Lakeland Livestock Centre, just off the A66 at Cockermouth. Activities will begin at 9am and continue throughout the day. Entry is just £5 for adults, with accompanied children free, and there is ample free parking. Further information is at www.cumbriafarmernetwork.co.uk

Can you beat it?

A great deal of interest has been shown in the Pentalk farm history group and old photographs that have been discovered. One of Bowscale Farm in 1918 shows three generations of the Wilson Family. There have been another three since. Can you beat this record of one farm in the hands of the same family for more than 100 years? Contact Pentalk if you want

to join in and trace your own farm history.



In the picture

The summer program of the Penrith and District Camera Club is now under way, and details are contained in a booklet available from Peter and Rosemary Koch-Osborne, on 01768 881274, or Christine Hurford, on 01768 840691. The winter program starts on Wednesday, 9th September, with meetings every Wednesday at 7-30pm until April, 2010, apart from at Christmas and a New Year. They will be held at the Quaker Meeting House, Meeting House Lane, Penrith. There will also be two open workshops, entitled "Know Your Camera", on 26th August and 2nd September. They will cost £3 per session, which covers hire of the hall, printed notes and refreshments. Information on the Club is at www.penrithcameraclub.co.uk

Grant scheme open for applications

As part of the English Woodland Grant Scheme, the application period for the woodland creation and woodland regeneration grants is now open. The aim is to create woodlands near to where people live, particularly within the urban fringe, for access, recreation and sport, and appropriately designed for wildlife, particularly where they can act as protective buffers and link important woodland habitats and other associated natural areas. The main funding available is for 2010/2011, 2011/2012 and 2012/2013.

There are two bits of information applicants need, the national guidance (EWGS 7) and the regional guidance (EWGS 7a). The regional guidance provides information on what regional additional contributions are available and how to complete application forms. Revised national guidance and forms are available from www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs-wcg or your local Forestry Commission office.

Lakeland historic vehicle show

The Lakeland historic vehicle show is to take place at Hutton-in-the-Forest, 2.5 miles west of junction 41 on the M6, on 21st June, when there will also be horse trials (separate admission). Guided tours around the historic house and gardens will be available, and there is a tea room. The show will start at 10am, with admission £6 for adults and £2.50 for children, inc parking and admission to gardens. <http://www.hutton-in-the-forest.co.uk/events.html>



Skelton Show 2009 CHANGE OF SHOW DATE

Following problems with the weather in recent years and also because the farming seasons are changing, the Skelton show committee have decided to move the date of the event from the third Saturday in August to the first Saturday in July – which will this year be the 4th. The committee promise a show with a difference and a new feel. Entries close on Tuesday, 23rd June, and schedule can be printed off at www.skeltonshow.com



Growing project in Lake District

The Sustainable Keswick group is encouraging the local community to "Grow Your Own", and is negotiating for extra allotments to meet the considerable and growing demand. The group need the assistance of anyone with experience of growing fruit or vegetables, preferably in northern Cumbria, to act as an adviser to the new allotment holders on what to grow, and how and when to grow it. Anyone interested should contact Peter Rigg, of Sustainable Keswick, on 01768 780561, or by e-mailing riggerpeter@tiscali.co.uk

Contributors to this County Edition from

Pentalk Co-ordinators: Susan Atkinson, Alison Burbury, Betty Graham
Other Contributors: Cumbria Farmer Network, Cumbria YFC, Hutton-in-the-Forest, Penrith Camera Club, Petter Rigg

The group also want to set up a scheme under which local residents will work with an experienced grower, providing him or her with a steady annual income, and possibly assistance in working the land. In return, the grower would provide vegetable boxes or other produce, and also support for residents visiting the site to learn and experience the growing process. Any farmer or grower interested in becoming involved in this development should contact Mr. Rigg

Building traditional skills

TRADITIONAL skills like dry stone walling will be taught during a series of training days in Cumbria this year. Funding, secured from the Garfield Weston Foundation and Hadfield Trust, will pay for the free training days organised by the Cumbria Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group.

There will be training on hedge laying, pond creation and management and dry stone walling. Training for coppicing, woodland management and traditional orchard management will also be available if there is enough interest. The first event will be a dry stone walling day on Friday, 17th July, at Askew Rigg, Troutbeck, Penrith. It will be hosted by Alan Bird. Basic methods for building and restoring a dry-stone wall will be taught. A dozen places are available. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Sally Ward on 01768 868104 or e-mail sally.ward@fwag.org.uk.



Worrying times for dairy farmers

Farmers' leaders in Cumbria say they remain hopeful most milk producers will survive the collapse of milk co-operative Dairy Farmers of Britain (DFOB). The co-operative, which employed around 2,200 people in the UK and was responsible for 10% of the country's milk production, called in receivers on Wednesday, 10th June. Many dairy farmers have lost tens of thousands of pounds as a result.

Those supplying the co-operative are unlikely to receive any money for the milk they produced in May, and DFOB members will lose cash they invested in the business. The National Farmers' Union (NFU) organised a meeting near Kendal on Tuesday, 9th June, which was attended by about 50 DFOB members. About half had already got new milk contracts, and most of the rest said they intended to do the same. They were advised not to rush into signing the first they were offered but to read it carefully and make sure they understood all the terms and conditions. Read more at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/cumbria/8084755.stm>

Wool Fest 2009

Mitchell's Lakeland Livestock Centre, Cockermouth, will be the venue on 26-27th June of Wool Fest, which is the biggest festival in the UK celebrating all aspects of natural fibres. This is the fourth year for the festival in Cockermouth.

There will be trade stands offering a wide range of goods, some from Northern Europe. Also featured will be various sheep breeds, as well as goats, alpacas and rabbits. Workshops and lectures will be running on both days. For more information look at www.woolfest.co.uk

woolfest 2009 



Map well worth checking out

The Rural Payments Agency will be sending out new maps to anyone who claims Single Payment Scheme and Rural Development Scheme payments over the summer months.

When you receive your map it is important you confirm that you agree with it or let the agency know what needs changing as soon as possible, and certainly within 28 days. The information will be used on your new maps for scheme payments in 2010 as well as for farm inspections.

Further information from www.rpa.gov.uk

Show dates

Skelton show – 4th July
Cumberland show – 18th July
Penrith show – 25th July
Cockermouth show – 1st August
Dalston show – 8th August
Gosforth show and Appleby show – 15th August
Hesket New Market show – 5th September.

Scottish farmers to breed Wagyu cross cattle



Scottish farmers have started to cross Aberdeen Angus cattle with Japanese Wagyu cattle in the hope of creating some of the world's most expensive beef.

Up to 700 of the cross-bred calves are due next spring on dozens of farms in Caithness in the north-east Highlands, in one of the biggest cattle breeding initiatives in the UK. The Wagyu beef, prized for its deeply marbled appearance, will be exported to Japan, where imports are cheaper than home-reared Wagyu meat. Japanese cattle are pampered with massages to help create the marbling, and beer or sake is added to their feeding regime. Read more about this at http://www.meatinfo.co.uk/news/full_story.php/aid/8851/Scottish_farmer_to_breed_Wagyu_cross.html

Pentalk Archive Exhibition

The Pentalk Archive Exhibition is now showing at Mitchell's Lakeland Livestock Centre, Cockermouth, until Tuesday, 30th June



Taken by: Anita Thorburn

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