

Arthritis Support Group

Report by: Gladys Temple

Members of Wigton Arthritis Support Group met at Loveday House on a very wet day. Apologies were sent from several members who were not well and others who were otherwise occupied.

Chairwoman Christine Smithson welcomed everyone and Secretary Gladys Temple read the minutes from the last meeting in May and also the two outings we had in June and July. We applied for a grant and Gladys was pleased to be able to report that Allerdale Local Social Care Grant Committee had sent a cheque for £130 that we are very grateful for, as this will help towards our insurance. A letter had been received from Timmins Mobility who we visited at Earl Street in June but they have

now moved to Unit 7B Sneakeyat Industrial Estate near the West Cumberland Hospital.

Christine then introduced Norman Godfrey who showed slides to music. His theme was cycling round the Western Isles of Scotland to the music of Mendelsohn's concerto for violin. We set off from Ardrossan to Arran where the gardens at Brodick Castle were beautiful, on to the Isles of Islay and Colonsay then to Oban. The beautiful Isles of Eigg, Rum and Coll were covered, with wonderful panoramas of South Uist and Skye in the distance. The next ferry took us from Skye to Eriskay and Barra with slides of the magnificent statue of the Madonna and Child, on to South Uist over the causeway

to Benbecula and North Uist. On we went to Lewis then Ullapool past the Summer Isles to Achiltibuie and on to Assynt. We then followed the coast down through some wonderful scenery. Christine gave the vote of thanks for taking us away from a very wet day to the wonderful sunny scenery of Scotland with lovely music to match the wonderful slides.

Anne Graham and Gladys Temple served refreshments while Norman talked to members of his experiences taking the slides and answering lots of questions. The winner of the raffle was Norman. The meeting ended with listening to the relaxation tape. The next meeting takes the members hobbies as its theme and will be at Loveday House on 3rd October.

Council on YouTube and Facebook

Allerdale Borough Council is embracing the digital age by using internet sites, such as the online video broadcaster YouTube and the social network site Facebook, to connect more with its communities in west Cumbria.

The local authority has launched its own channel on YouTube, featuring video clips profiling the work of the Council; ranging from informative films warning children of the dangers of playing on building sites, to coverage of entertainment events organised by the Council to celebrate public art installations.

In addition, Allerdale Borough Council has established a presence on Facebook. The unusual step started out as a way of encouraging younger voters to make sure they were on the Electoral Register but has grown

to include links to the authority's videos and its official website, as well as publicise upcoming events.

Visitors to the page can also communicate with the council by posting messages on its Facebook "wall".

Initial reactions to the initiative have been positive, with local media picking up on the line that the Council is the first local authority in Cumbria to join the Facebook generation.

The Council has even begun a fun campaign to help spread a song featuring local dialect across the world, via YouTube, in a bid to put the area on the map. It has also produced its own short film, starring the Council's colourful Litterbug, which aims to educate people about the Council's work in tackling waste and recycling.

Daniel Cattanach, media relations officer

with Allerdale Borough Council, said: "Allerdale's population, like many parts of Cumbria, is spread out across a huge area. With more and more people turning to the internet for information and communication, we felt it was a good idea to try out new ways of connecting with our residents and visitors.

"We want to make good use of advances in the digital age, such as broadband internet technology, to get our message across to as wide an audience as possible and to hear what they have to say to us."

To watch Allerdale Borough Council's videos, click here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/allerdalebc>

For the council's Facebook pages, visit: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/workington-United-Kingdom/Allerdale-Borough-Council/19233423780>.

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Skinburness Residents Ass'n

Skinburness Residents Association (SRA) exists to promote the best interests of the local community.

As part of this process we are looking for keen residents to join the efforts of the existing committee - interested? Pop along to the next

meeting of the SRA to be held on 30th October 2008 in the Golf Hotel at 8pm.

If you would like a chat before the meeting for whatever reason please contact the Chairman, Simon Boniface, on either simonjune@aol.com, or 016973 33169.

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