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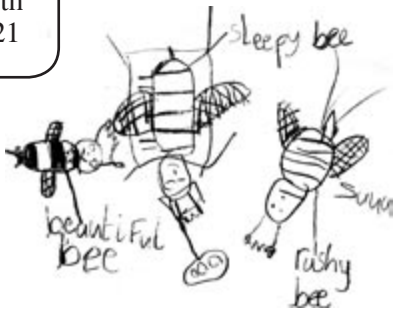
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Rushy Bee,
Sleepy Bee &
Beautiful Bee
by
Caitlin Beattie
aged 7
from
Silloth Primary School



Causewayhead W.I.

The green fingered ladies of Causeway Head W.I have enjoyed two meetings during June, the first to Holker Hall Garden Festival, the second to Tomarabandy at Blitterlees.

Husbands and friends joined us to travel on Markley's coach to the opening day of the festival. Three lucky people, Pam Loughlin, Margaret Durham, and Malcolm Wilson won £5 garden vouchers in the raffle. Every one enjoyed the displays in the marquees. The day was warm and sunny and this made wandering around the show ground very enjoyable. Many rare and unusual plants were on display and a selection of these will be planted in Silloth

gardens.

On a warm sunny evening as a part of the usual monthly meeting, we visited Tom and Margaret Wrathall's beautiful coastal garden, or rather fourteen individual themed gardens. Tom began planting in 1988, initially planting windbreaks and building a greenhouse to propagate his plants. We were led by Tom and Margaret through the various gardens as they patiently answered our many questions and pointed out special plants and features. Tom brought some baby cockatiels out of his aviary as he handles them from time to time to get them used to human contact. Many of us bought plants from a well stocked display.

Back in the Catholic Hall, after a welcome cup of tea, Anne Harrison led a short business meeting, first welcoming a visitor, Lyn Devine.

Jean Wilson read the county news, Cathie Baty and Margery Dockeray won raffle prizes and Dorothy Ross and Jean Graham took home grocery parcels.

Russian River Ships

Report by:
Stephen Wright

Residents and visitors to Silloth may have noticed an increasing number of ships with unusual names and sometimes with numbers visiting this part of the coast - VADOGA 12, BALTIYSKIY 102, VASILIIY SHUKSKIN to name just a few. These vessels are in fact Russian river ships and they are becoming increasingly familiar around the British Coast.

Until recently, such vessels were confined to trading within the former Soviet Union and Baltic states, but as this part of the world has opened up, they are taking and delivering cargo all over Europe, the west coast of the UK being about the limit of their trading area. They are characterised by their shallow draft - they were built to trade on Russia's extensive inland waterways and lakes - hence they are known as 'river ships' and so they lie quite low



The 'Baltiskiy 202' leaving Silloth, April 2003

in the water even when they are not laden. This means they have no problem navigating the comparatively shallow waters of the Solway Firth. They are also characterised by often having a number after their class name, on their hull.

There are many other different types of Russian river ships but the main ones to have visited Silloth belong to the 'Baltiyskiy' and, more recently, 'Ladoga' class. Most of the ships were built in Finland for Russia and were built in batches, each ship being identical but given a different number to identify it e.g. Ladoga 12, 13, 14 etc. These ships are also characterised by their length, the Baltiyskiy class vessels being

some of the longest ships to use Silloth at around 90 metres. The longest ship ever seen at Silloth was in fact the Russian Sovietsky Sever, a 'Sormovskiy' class vessel, at 114m long, back in 1995.

Although it was standard practice to simply give ships a number, recently some ships have been renamed after distinguished Russian writers - such as the Alexander Tvardovskiy, Mikhail Dudin and Vasiliiy Shukskin, names which are likely to become quite familiar as these Russian ships carry an increasing share of cargoes. More information about these vessels can be found on Aleksey S. Yablonsky's website: www.riverships.rus.

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