Festival Bowlad

The Festival Bowlad 2008, like previous years has a huge success with hundreds of people coming to the Festival Bowlad of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty to take part in a wide range of events. These events have helped us showcase the special qualities the beautiful area has to offer and share with others what makes this area such a special place for people and wildlife. The Festival Bowlad in 2009 will no longer take place in June, instead the Festival of Bowlad AONB Partnership will continue to work together with landowners, local experts and businesses in the area to continue to provide a wealth of events and opportunities for people to explore the area’s special qualities throughout the year – Festival Bowlad Checklist for our Festival Bowlad events and more on the Festival of Bowlad website www.festivalbowlad.co.uk

Garstang Walking Festival

Garstang Walking Festival is a community festival set up with the support of the Wyre Leisure Services and local businesses. Experienced local guides many of whom are volunteers from the community and countryside services lead walks along the paths and trails in and around Garstang, the River Wyre, the Lancaster Canal and the Forest of Bowland. Regular features of the festival include Bluebell Tea walks which complement the Sunday afternoon tea available from Calder Vale Village Hall in High Wyre. Very long distance walks, which is a chance for people to walk the 16 miles from sea to source in 4 days and wildlife walks such as the High Harveys and Farmland Birds. During this week-long event, activities are organized in the parishes of Bleasdale, Cloughton, Barnacre and Nuttery Winterscales including the villages of Calderdale and Sorton. Walkers, cyclists and horse riders are most welcome, with a variety of activities available along with information on the paths and trails in the area. The Garstang Tourist Information Centre is open every day and custom can get information about the walking festival, book accommodation and find out about local services in the area. You can book your accommodation along with your place at the Garstang Walking Festival booking office in Garstang Tourist Information Centre or 01953 625 125 or email info@wyre.gov.uk visit website www.wyre.gov.uk.

History of Calder Vale

Calder Vale, despite its remote and beautiful setting, is very much a working village and you can still hear the clatter of the weaving looms when the mill is working. There is little else to spoil the peace and tranquillity that can be so hard to find but you can hear the noise of the weaving looms when the mill is working. There is little else to spoil the peace and tranquillity that can be so hard to find but you can hear the noise of the weaving looms when the mill is working.

Brown Hares

The brown hare is not native to Britain but was introduced before the Roman invasion. It has become characteristic of traditional mixed farming landscapes. It is mainly nocturnal. Party for this reason, an element of mystery surrounds it and the hare has always seemed strong in myth and literature. A marked decline in numbers has certainly occurred throughout the country but the upland pasture fringe of the Forest of Bowland seems to be an important habitat for them. Intensification of farming has resulted in decreased crop diversity larger fields and the loss of woodland and hedgerows all of which have had negative impacts on hare populations. Crop diversity is important to hares because their nutritional requirements vary according to the season and so they move between crop types. Hedgehogs are important daytime upland species, particularly for weaners (baby hares). Perhaps you will see hares standing on their back legs and basking just at a time of day or evening and this is the time to minimise the chance of their being spotted by predators. This information is summarised from the Study Action Module Act 5 of the Census and this can be seen full at www.bbsrc.org.uk.

History of Bleasdale

Bleasdale is a dispersed village but nonetheless has a thriving sense of community with a church and nearby restored village hall set in stunning countryside. The local estate has provided the stability and continuity that has enabled the community to be managed for the benefit of wildlife and conservation and this is evident in the well tended hedgehogs and dry stone walls. In recent times, farm diversification has led to several farms offering accommodation for walkers, cyclists and holidaymakers. Bleas is an Old Norse word and means “a bare spot on a hillside”. Bleasdale, Cirkle, a Bronze Age linear structure consisting of two circles set one within another, was discovered by Mr. Sharp in 1959. The site was excavated in 1970 by Mr. John. The excavations have revealed a stone cist and several tumuli of the Early Bronze Age period. The tumuli in one of the groups of a small hill was found.

History of Oakenclough

Oakenclough is a small and scattered community which appears to have developed largely as a result of a paper mill being established here to make use of the waterpower available from the swiftly flowing River Calder. In 1627 Jonathan Jackson bought a paper mill from Richard Curtis a paper manufacturer and farmer who had gone bankrupt. Jonathan Jackson built and lived in the adjacent house called as Calder Bank, where his descendants continued to live for well over a hundred years. Oakenclough is a short (but steep) walk through the woods from Calder Vale but a much longer car ride.

Bluebell Teas

40 years ago, the Catholic Church in Calder Vale held to show the Catholics and Anglicans joined hospital and began to raise money to repair and furnish the Mission Room so that both churches could use it. One of the ideas was to make homemade refreshments every Sunday in May before the bluebells are flowering. Today, the event has raised over £1,000 and has become a very popular event. If you park your car, you can walk through the village and there is a free glass of wine or coffee. You can also walk on the M61 motorway (a only allowed at weekends and in the evenings) Walk up the hill along Long Row and proceed through the gate onto a park with the lodge resting in estate on your right and the river Calder on your left. Eventually you will see the Bagby bluebell wood and if you are feeling energetic you can walk to the Hill and walk the path of the valley which is a particularly lovely place walk up to Wyre and in a nice place.