

▶ away, "It has taken us a while to get a new puppy and now I can't wait to introduce him to the fells."

Who do you think you are?

"A while ago I did some research into my family tree and was able to get back to 1640 with certainty and with a bit of guess work got as far as 1480." Roger explained that his family have been farmers in the county for centuries "because they stayed at the same farm for generations it was relatively easy."

Roger's father was brought up in Eskdale and his mother came from Aspatria. "During my research I didn't find any skeletons in the cupboard thank goodness!"

Dogs and cups of tea

"I enjoy being involved with the Gosforth office because I know the area so well" said Roger, "and it was nice to meet people from families that I'd heard my father mention for years."

"When Robinson & Co took over the Allen Grey firm in Gosforth I think there was a worry

amongst the locals that we'd only be there for a few months then close it down and transfer everything to Whitehaven. But that was never going to happen – we really do appreciate the clients we have in the Gosforth area who are predominately farmers," explained Roger. "We are definitely here for the long haul."

"The atmosphere in the Gosforth office is different from Workington – a bit more relaxed. Clients sometime seem just pop in with their dogs for a cuppa and a chat when they're in the village" Roger laughed. "I can admit it took a lot of getting used too at first. I would be in the middle of working on a client's case when a dog would suddenly pop its nose round the door."

Roger wouldn't have it any other way now and being a dog person loves the informality of the office. "It seems to work and that's what's important."

Getting in amongst it

Robinson+co are very keen at supporting local fundraising events and in Gosforth have sponsored events like the Gosforth Hall Beer Fest and the Gosforth 10k.

"Many years ago a group of us did the Keswick to Barrow 40-mile walk for charity." Roger sighed and shook his head. "I have never been as tired as I was after that. I'm really glad to have done it but I won't be doing anything like that anytime soon!"

The firm tends not to nominate just one charity for the year to support, "we prefer to leave it open for the staff who are always raising money for the various charities that are significant to them."

Rumour has it

Finally I just had to find out if the rumour I'd heard was right, is Roger a chocaholic?

"Yes, well I used to be." Roger looked a bit sheepish "It came about because every day I would bring back a Cadburys flake at lunch time." He pats his stomach "But I don't do that anymore."

I thanked Roger for being such a good sport about the interview and for not plunging into broad Cumbrian which this Hampshire girl would not have understood. "You mean you don't know what a twinter is?" He jested. I left mulling that one over!

KNIT HERE!

The Seascale Knitting Club continues to flourish with more new members joining us recently. The summer left us a bit 'knitted out' so our contribution at Christmas was to re-use last years' efforts. We decorated a tree as part of the Methodist Church Christmas tree festival and our chosen carol was 'O Tannenbaum'. We used loads of knitted decorations that have been produced previously to create a very jolly sight! The tree then went on display in the library. Our charity last year was the Alzheimers Society and we donated £135. This money comes from donations for yarn from our stash and any monies left over when we have paid for the room. We meet fortnightly, on a Wednesday in Windscale Club from 6.30 to 8.00pm. The group varies in age and experience and all are welcome. Some folk bring crochet or a bit of sewing and our mantra of 'just don't bring glue' remains! We share ideas and help to each other when struggling with a project. Come along, join our jolly group! Dip in and out as you like.

Penny Cater

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