

## ‘Driggsby’, the Tullie House Whale

Tullie House Museum in Carlisle has a new whale skeleton, Driggsby, which has been installed for exhibition. In January, Tullie House held a Launch Event and invited representatives from the various organisations which supported the whole project. These include: the Drigg & Carleton Community Benefit Fund, Arts Council England, Copeland Community Fund, Cumberland News and The Binks Trust. The Drigg & Carleton representatives at the event were Dave & Adrienne Millington and Bob & Pam Williamson.

As they enter the Atrium, visitors will be amazed by a 12m long leviathan looking down at them. The whale will not only be a Museum centrepiece but could also be a new icon for Carlisle. It could be their version of the young Blue Whale now exhibited in the entrance of the Natural History Museum in London.

This specimen of a Fin whale was discovered in February 2014 after it was washed up dead on the beach, at Drigg Point, near Drigg. It is the second largest living whale species, though like all baleen whales, the species feeds on tiny sea creatures (plankton). This endangered species is a very rare Cumbrian discovery, and it is very likely that the whale originated from further south in the Irish Sea, where sightings are relatively common.

The specimen was recovered with the permission of Muncaster Estate, Natural England, The Marine Management Organisation and Copeland District Council. The skeleton has now been thoroughly cleaned by a specialist, Nigel Larkin, who also modelled many of the missing pieces. The skeleton was then articulated in sections, which could be mounted together on the Atrium wall at Tullie House. So, why not pop along to Tullie House on your next visit to Carlisle, and admire this amazing spectacle? Dr Simon Jackson will be giving a talk on ‘Driggsby’ at this year’s Annual Parish Meeting in the Spring. Look out for details nearer the time.

R Williamson

## **'DRIGGSBY' COMMUNITY & EDUCATION PROJECT**

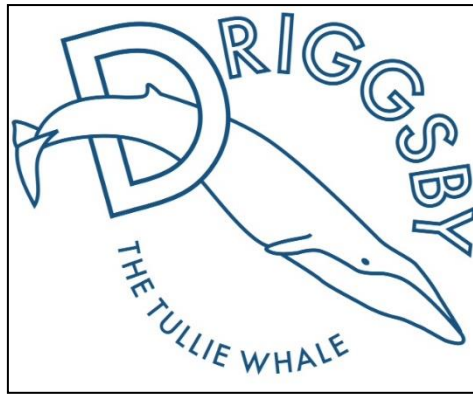
This Community & Education project was initiated by Drigg Charity trustees, to give residents and members of the wider community opportunities to be informed and to celebrate our links with the successful Driggsby project at Tullie House, which was supported by an award from the Drigg & Carleton Community Benefit fund.

In May 2018, Dr Simon Jackson, Curator at Tullie House, Carlisle gave a very interesting presentation about Driggsby, at the Drigg & Carleton Annual Parish meeting and he also gave a talk to the Drigg Tuesday Chat group in June.

The Drigg & Carleton Community Benefit fund also supported the costs for children at Gosforth CE Primary School (Class 3) and Seascale Primary School (Holly Class), to visit Driggsby at Tullie House and to work with experts, Dr Simon Jackson and Sarah Forster. In their workshop sessions the children learned about the recovery of the whale carcass from Drigg Point and the processes used to prepare the skeleton for display. They also found out a about whales, the environmental issues which are affecting oceans and sea life.

This exhibition in Drigg Village Hall is a celebration of the schools' project and to share some of their work, which was inspired by their visit to Driggsby. Our thanks to all the children & their teachers.

Following the exhibition, the displays will be taken to Tullie House, for the museum's Driggsby outreach collection.



# 'DRIGGSBY' THE WHALE

## AN EXHIBITION

of local school children's work,

in DRIGG VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July 1.30-4.00pm

A Community and Education project with  
Gosforth & Seascale Primary Schools  
and Tullie House Museum, Carlisle

Funded by Drigg & Carleton  
Community Fund



