



RELEASE

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Photographs: Maurice Wheelan



Egremont Castle and cemetery evening illumination switches on.

Copeland MP Jamie Reed and Copeland leader Cllr Elaine Woodburn officially switched on the newly installed Egremont castle lighting on Friday night, 5th September during a heavy downpour. Despite the constant rain the ceremony went ahead with the aid of umbrellas.

The ancient monument now benefits from a spectacular illumination scheme as part of Egremont Regeneration Partnership's work in the town and to the castle.

Jamie Reed MP commented, "It is great to be back in Egremont to switch on the lights at one of the county's finest heritage sites. The regeneration work over the last couple of years has started to make the town look its best again and it is an asset to the region that we should be very proud of."

Cllr Elaine Woodburn, Chair of the Regeneration Partnership in Egremont said " I am are delighted the illumination has now been turned on. Despite the rainy evening the castle looked stunning and will stand out even more as our shimmering jewel of the town"

Ends

Background information

The gatehouse is illuminated and the castle main wall washed in white light from recessed up lights. Additional up lighting is used throughout the site ensuring the ruins are visible to the many people passing by in the evening including those travelling on the bypass.

Friends of the Castle has been working with the Egremont and Area Regeneration Partnership, Copeland Borough Council and Grizedale Arts to ensure that the new lighting scheme emphasises the town's historical castle as a central feature in the development of the area and of town life.

The long awaited castle illumination project completed this month will raises the castle's profile and attract interest and attention as it comes to life on the night skyline. The castle will become very visible in the evenings and so attract increased day time use by residents and visitors.

The 50K lighting scheme has been funded by West Lakes Renaissance, Sellafield Ltd, Arts Council England, the European Regional Development Fund and Copeland Borough Council.

Following the original Egremont student competition launched in January 2007 by Egremont Regeneration Partnership in conjunction with Creative Egremont the project work was put out to tender and awarded to Sutton Vane Associates.

The lighting scheme installation tender was won by local contractors Margrange Electrical. AOC Archaeology Group was on site to oversee the work in the event of archaeological remains being uncovered during excavations.

The lighting scheme also includes additional work up lighting two chapels in Egremont cemetery on the opposite side of the bypass.

West Lakes Renaissance was one of the funders and project manager **Ann-Marie Cowperthwaite** said: "The new lighting will make this pivotal feature of Egremont even more prominent and will help to create an enticing atmosphere at night. It is just another step towards realising the full potential of this superb asset. Egremont Castle has an important role to play in the renaissance of the town and plans are progressing for this historic monument to be a thriving outdoor performance venue."

Andrew Davison responsible for Ancient Monuments at English Heritage and therefore Egremont Castle commented: "The Castle has been a key feature of Egremont since the 12th Century. This imaginative new scheme will help to highlight its importance; English Heritage is pleased to have been involved, offering expert advice to the Regeneration Partnership to help ensure that the lighting scheme will enhance the Castle's appearance and its prominent position in the town."

Ann Morton of Friends of Egremont Castle said 'It is a dream long realised and an aspiration of the friends group to see our castle lit at night. We are very grateful to all those who have given their help and finance to make it this possible'

Cllr Elaine Woodburn, Elaine Woodburn, Chair of Egremont and Regeneration Partnership and leader of Copeland Council, said: "This project will make the castle literally shine as the jewel in the crown of Egremont's lovely market place, which is close once again to looking at its best. It has taken a lot of work to get to this stage but I am sure the Castle will once again become a beacon and attract many people into the town. "

Alister Hudson of Grizedale Arts commented that " This project really brings the castle back into the hands of the community and highlights one of West Cumbria's best historic assets.

The castle lighting project has been supported by:

The Friends of Egremont Castle
The Egremont and Area Regeneration Partnership
West Lakes Renaissance
Sellafield Ltd.
Grizedale Arts
Arts Council England



West Lakes Renaissance is leading the regeneration of Furness and West Cumbria. They are:

- Investing £200 million in Furness and West Cumbria over the next 10 years to stimulate economic growth and create 5,000 new jobs
- Co-ordinating regeneration activity across an 80 mile long area in order to attract private sector investment
- Creating a knowledge-based economy based on new skills and business growth

For more information on West Lakes Renaissance visit www.westlakesrenaissance.co.uk.

West Lakes Renaissance is supported by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), which leads the economic development and regeneration of England's Northwest and is responsible for: Supporting business growth and encouraging investment; Matching skills provision to employer needs; Creating the conditions for economic growth; Connecting the region through effective transport and communication infrastructure; Promoting the region's outstanding quality of life. www.nwda.co.uk

Creative Egremont

Creative Egremont is a part of Egremont's Regeneration strategy and involves Grizedale Arts working with the Regeneration Partnership to manage the arts and cultural elements of the programme of regeneration projects being carried out from 2006.

The project aims at raising the level of infrastructure for cultural provision in Egremont enabling increasing sustainability of arts and events work in the town, improving access and increasing use of the town centre, castle and venues.

Creative Egremont is funded from the North West Development Agency and West Lakes Renaissance

Enclosed

Pdf Sutton Vane Associates specification of works

Pdf Sutton Vane Associates plan of works

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