



BINSEY LINK



The magazine that reaches out to everyone in our communities

binsey.org.uk

Serving and informing the Mission Community of:

Allhallows, Bassenthwaite, Boltons, Embleton, Ireby, Isel, Plumbland, Setmurthy,
Torpenhow, Uldale and Wythop

Charity Number:
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December 2020 / January 2021

Winter/Christmas 2020



Apparently, our lovely Northern neighbours – the Scandinavians mainly – have a wonderful approach to their exceedingly dark and long winter. They reframe things with a wintertime mindset – focusing on the positives. There are things we might be able to learn from them, to help with our Covid-laced lives, into our own long winter. What might this look like and how?

When I moved to Amsterdam in 1987, I learned that the Dutchies have a great word for being cosy at home – *gezellig*. There's nothing quite like walking into a warm house on a blustery, bone chilling day, feeling the welcoming heat, and settling in by the fireplace with a steaming hot cuppa, slippers on, and a cat or dog curled up next to you. Maybe, it's having a pint in the local with your chums, or having a coffee and a slice of cake in a cafe? (Pre-lockdown) That's *gezellig*!

Back to our Scandinavian and Dutch cousins – what do they do to thrive through winter?

[Psychologist Kari], "Leibowitz's findings build on decades of previous research, showing that the mental framing of stressful events can powerfully influence the ways we are affected by them. People who see stressful events as "challenges", with an opportunity to learn and adapt, tend to cope much better than those who focus more on the threatening aspects – like the possibility of failure, embarrassment, or illness. These differences in mindset not only influence people's mood, but also their physiological responses, such as changes in blood pressure and heart rate, and how quickly they recover after the event." Cf. <https://bit.ly/2GCKuJL>

Like the Dutch's *gezellig*, the Danish cherish their *hygge*, and the Norwegians, *koselig* - which might involve snuggling under blankets with a warm drink in candlelight. They embraced the possibility of skiing or hiking in the mountains and savoured the chance to practice being cosy.

This is one way we should picture what God means in the bible when it speaks of 'Shalom' – much more than peace. Have you ever imagined that heaven could be cosy? All at peace within and without, totally at home and safe? When Jesus went to visit Martha and Mary, and Lazarus, this was the kind of setting he loved – he promised that he would bring rest to all who would come to him, too. The message translation puts it well, from Matthew 11:28-30:
"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Being with God is supposed to be like all of this – at peace, content with where we are and accepted in His love, even after we depart this world. No cloud hopping or harp plucking as angels, despite common misunderstandings. We do not become angels after we die, but through faith in Christ, we are fully embraced as God's children, with adventures better than Narnia before us in a new creation. Eternal life is not an everlasting church service – it's more like the best Christmas, filled with deep joy, and happiness in our souls more than we can imagine, as the finest self we can be. The interesting thing is that all of this can start where we are now because of Jesus. In him *is* life and that reality will reach into the darkest corners to make our burdens more bearable even now. Our picture of God will adjust and set our expectations and understanding – if we measure God by human standards, and failings, that's all we will see – but if we look at Jesus, we will know the love of God.

I want to wish everyone a cosy and blessed Christmas, whatever that looks like this year!

Rev'd Peter



December 2020 / January 2021

Monthly Letter

Christmas last year was rather chaotic. We'd just moved into our new house and were still trying to find the lights for the Christmas tree and enough pillows to make our very pregnant daughter-in-law comfortable. I did know where one Christmas decoration was; the one I'd bought for the new baby. I hope it will become a tradition to buy a special bauble for her each year. That's how stories are made, and for all the things that were different last year, the stories remained the same. 'Do you remember?' 'Do you remember when the alarms went off on Christmas night and a whole houseful of guests slept right through it?' 'Do you remember when my mother cooked a goose and flooded the kitchen floor with grease?'

The stories of this Christmas will be different. I'm writing this just as we go into the second national lockdown in a bid to 'Save Christmas'. Even if it's lifted after 2nd December, our usual family gatherings are not likely to happen this year. I'm sure that there will be disappointment for many as the traditions of past Christmases have to be put on hold.

But the key story remains vibrant and alive. We celebrate Christmas because of the birth of a special baby, and that special baby created so many stories, and such important ones, that we still tell them today. And not only do we tell them but we use them as the basis for living our lives. Jesus' birth changed the world. The wholeness of God

poured into this tiny package of frail human life and offered to us as the greatest gift there has ever been. No one has to accept that gift, but for those of us who do a whole new world of hope, of joy, of assurance comes to life.

Believing in God through Jesus doesn't magic problems away. It doesn't make Covid 19 any less infectious, or not being able to welcome our families for turkey and mince pies any less hard. But faith does tell us that the promise of God holds true- that whatever the world might throw at us God is standing alongside us.

This has been a difficult year, but as we enter the waiting time of Advent, we should remind ourselves of the stories of the God who has been with us through it all. Emmanuel, God with us. Jesus, the light of the world. Far from the Government's bid to 'Save Christmas', we should perhaps let Christmas save us.

May I wish you a very blessed Christmas and a hopeful New Year.

Julia



Christmas Services

As this Christmas edition of the Binsey Link is being prepared for printing we are currently in a period of further lockdown and church services are not allowed to take place. However, we remain hopeful that by the start of December we will be able to hold Sunday services again.

Our greater expectation is that there will be Christmas services taking place across the Binsey Team, even though there will be some differences this year because of the on-going restrictions. Obviously, there will not be the usual Carol and Christingle services as we have to maintain

social distancing and we are not allowed to sing in church, but we are considering how we might be able to offer a Carol service, which is recorded and available over the internet.

Importantly, we are planning to hold Christmas services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and a schedule of services for the Binsey Team is being prepared. By early December, we intend to start advertising these services on the website (www.binsey.org.uk) and the church noticeboards.

From the Registers

WEDDINGS

The wedding of Danny Yates & Courtney Mallen took place at St. Michael & All Angels, Torpenhow on 24th October 2020.

The wedding of Ian Newby & Katy Mitchell took place at St. Margaret, Wythop, on 4th November 2020

FUNERALS

The burial of Barry Evans, from Cockermouth, took place at St. Cuthbert, Embleton, on 27th October 2020.

Team Items

BLESSING
Weddings
LIGHT
PRAYER FA

Choose any one of our churches for your special day!

Congratulations if you have just got engaged and are thinking about getting married in one of the Binsey Mission Community churches.

If you currently live anywhere within the Binsey Mission Community area, then you can get married in our churches. If you live elsewhere, but have a family connection to a church, or want to come and worship regularly in our churches, then we'd love to help you.

We expect to be able to conduct weddings again, once the current lockdown is eased. However, the number of people attending a wedding is currently restricted to a maximum of 15 people, which includes everyone present. In a few of our smaller church buildings, it is not possible to accommodate 15 people due to the current social distancing guidelines.

If you would like to enquire about what is currently possible or book a wedding, please contact our Team Rector, Revd. Stephen Banks on 016973 71541 for a friendly chat. He will be able to talk you through what is possible and what are the current differences.

We would love to welcome you into our church and help you make your life-long commitment to each other before God.

Please note that we are not currently taking any new bookings for St. Bega, Bassenthwaite due to its size, location, and to ensure the safety of all volunteers under the current climate.

St James, Uldale is also not currently available because of major restoration work.

Baptism in the Binsey Team Mission Community

We are really pleased when parents approach us about Baptism (also known as Christening) for their child. It's a very important step, both for parents and the child. Infant Baptism involves parents and godparents making a public commitment about their own Christian faith and the church. They are making a commitment to pray for their child, so that as they grow, with their help, and ours, they may be able to live out in practice the Christian life.

To enable parents to do this we ask that you come and join us in worship at any of our team churches at some point in the two months BEFORE the date of the baptism. After an enquiry is made, a home visit will be arranged to discuss things informally, to see what level of preparation might be appropriate and answer any questions.

We hope to conduct Baptisms again after Christmas and they are subject to the same restrictions as any church service; face-masks must be worn and due to the size of our church buildings, most churches would not be able to have more than 12-15 people in the Baptism party.

For an informal chat about infant baptism, please contact the Team Rector, Revd. Stephen Banks on 016973 71541 or the Team Vicar, Revd. Peter Gilroy on 016973 71430.

Please note that we are not currently taking any new bookings for St. Bega, Bassenthwaite due to its size, location and to ensure the safety of all volunteers under the current climate. St James, Uldale is also not currently available because of major restoration work.



Keep in touch with us on **facebook**

See what's happening in your area and the wider Christian community.
Visit [facebook.com/binseyministry](https://www.facebook.com/binseyministry) or search for **Binsey Ministry**.

We are here for you

Feel like having a chat?

Sometimes we feel like talking to someone different or anyone at all. That might be especially true at the moment.

The Binsey Pastoral Visiting Team are glad to offer a listening ear.

You are welcome to ring any of us on the list, at any time between 10am and 5pm. Just say 'Hello, I've rung for a chat!'

If the person you call isn't in, please do ring again later or try someone else on the list.

If you feel like having a chat, about anything at all, we look forward to hearing from you.

Michael Braithwaite 016973 23429

Julia Hedley 017687 76844

Laurie Mansfield 07866 534 316

Gillian Marr 016973 71478

Cathy Rooney 016973 71866

Clare Spedding 017687 75356

Valerie Trafford 017687 76278



Team Item

HELP SUPPORT OUR TWELVE CHURCHES IN BINSEY

For centuries our twelve parish churches have been a spiritual home to generations of villagers. Our inspirational buildings, not only help shape the character of our villages, but are also reminders of the presence of God in our daily lives, supporting people at times of joy and sorrow.

We are very grateful to all who support our work; generously giving their time, their talents, and their money. We hope that the twelve parish churches of Binsey can continue to be very much at the heart of our community life, offering a haven of peace and reflection to all our parishioners.

There are now some challenges for us, as the current restrictions continue to prevent most social events, group meetings and fundraising activities from taking place.

Church services are very restricted in the number of people who can attend due to social distancing guidelines and the relatively small size of most of our buildings.

These regulations have a particular impact upon funerals, weddings, and baptisms, all of which are limited to only a maximum of 30 people, if the building allows. In the case of weddings and baptisms many of these services are being delayed until next year and whilst funerals must go

ahead despite the restrictions, the number of people who can attend them is greatly reduced.

All of this has had a significant impact on the income of each of our churches, and yet most of the running costs and financial commitments remain the same.

The Binsey Team receives no external funding and is entirely reliant on donations. Therefore, if any of you could consider making a financial donation, your gift would be very gratefully received.

Your donation can be made as a one-off gift or you can make a regular monthly donation instead.

If you are able to make a financial contribution, then you can send a cheque (made payable to the 'Binsey Team Ministry') to the Binsey Team Treasurer and his address details are on the back page, (please give details of whether you wish your gift to be used for any specific purpose or a specific church).

Alternatively, you can visit the website, www.binsey.org.uk, and click on the 'donate' button on the home page or 'give' on the churches page, where a direct internet link allows a financial gift to be made to any of our twelve churches using your debit card.

Stephen

Rev. Stephen Banks

Binsey History by Mick Jane

CARRIAGE LAMP EXPLOSION ON THE RAILWAY.

Two passengers jump from a train.

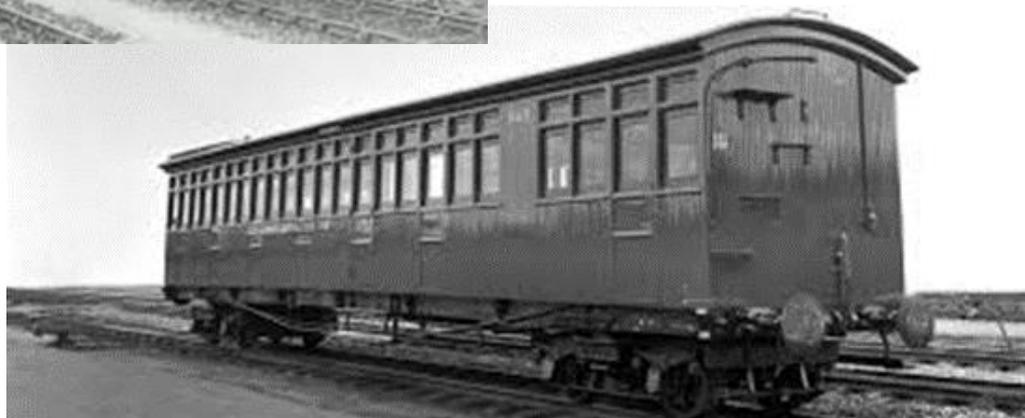
November 1901

A remarkable accident happened on the 5.55 pm between Mealsgate and Baggrow Stations on Friday night. It appears that three ladies and a young girl; Mrs. James Tate and Mrs. Greenall, Fletchertown; Mrs. Samuel Tate, Front House, Fletchertown; and Miss Mary Ann Tate, daughter of Mr. Moses Tate, Fletchertown; were travelling to Wigton. A minute or two after the train left Mealsgate Station some of the ladies noticed that the lamp overhead was burning badly, and that a quantity of oil (which was understood by the ladies to be paraffin) had collected in the bottom of the lamp. In a very little while the oil in the glass caught fire.

A rush was made for the connecting cord to the engine, but there was none, and the women began to scream. Their cries for help were only heard by the other passengers in the adjoining compartment, and although one young man got out onto the footboard of the carriage, the attention of the guard and engineman could not be obtained. In the midst of the excitement and hubbub the lamp exploded with a loud report like a gun going off. This, and the flash of burning oil falling on the ladies and on the carriage floor, caused them such fright that Mrs. Samuel Tate flung the carriage door open and leaped from the train, and was immediately followed by Miss Tate. The other two ladies had been hiding in a corner and holding their heads out of the train on the other side to escape the fire and did not know their companions had left them. On looking round and seeing the door open and their companions gone they were left still more terribly shocked.

When the explosion took place, the train was around Upperby, and was going at a good speed, but all efforts to attract the attention of the guard and engine drivers were useless until the train reached Baggrow Station. On learning the position of affairs, P.C. Farrar, of Fletchertown, who happened to be in the train, the guard and six or seven men set off up the line in the search of the two ladies. On nearing the place, the search party was surprised to find Mrs. Tate walking towards them, but in a dazed and semi-conscious condition. She was at once lifted into a first-class carriage; all the ladies survived.

For more information on local history you can contact me - Mick Jane, 5, Front Street, Fletchertown.



Christmas Colouring



Around The Parishes

Allhallows

A £60 donation has been sent to the Royal British Legion following the collection at the Remembrance Service at All Saints Church.

To all parishioners and friends; seasonal greetings from Allhallows Church Council, stay safe and have a wonderful festive time.

Bassenthwaite

St John, Bassenthwaite.

A big thank you to everyone who made contributions of food items and money to the food bank for the Harvest Festival. It was a fantastic amount and was much appreciated. A £50 donation was also made to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal. The Harvest supper and sale was missed by us all. Hopefully next year things will be back to normal.

On Remembrance Sunday, Revd. Julia Hedley led a short, outdoor service in accordance with current guidelines. Bassenthwaite School had placed a much-admired display of poppies that had everyone guessing what they were made from and some beautifully painted stones

decorating the entrance to the church. Everyone present appreciated a service had been possible and that the date continues to be observed by young and old alike. The collection was for the Royal British Legion. Hopefully there will be Christmas services at St John, but as we all know, things continue to change from day to day. Finally, another mole has been eliminated – hopefully the last!

Bassenthwaite Christmas Lunch Committee wish

All the Senior Citizens of Bassenthwaite
A happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful new year
No lunch this year but hope to see you all December 2021

Embleton

St Cuthbert:

Sorry the lockdown put a stop to our plans for a Christmas market, but we do hope to organise one in December if we can. We will do our very best to spread the word (and good cheer) in as many ways as we can including Embleton WhatsApp. It will be on the hill at Wythop Mill and the signs will be put out. Crafty stuff should also be on sale at Scales Farm shop, courtesy of Thomas and Sheila.

Our outdoor remembrance service was very poignant and well attended. Plans for Christmas services are sketchy at this stage, but we are hopeful of holding a socially distanced Christmas Eve service. Sadly, no Christingle this year but we all hope for a safe and peaceful Christmas season and send out every good wish for the new year. Dates for your diary: DCC meeting, 12th January.

Ragbags; unwanted clothing, linen, shoes, handbags and belts; all welcome. Items can be left in the porch at St Cuthbert **OR** in the collection bin at Ling Crest, Wythop Mill. All money raised goes to Dewode.

Any items or comments for the next edition, please send to Jean at jeanmaca@aol.com or 017687 76184 by 7th January please.

Embleton & District Village Hall Notice Board.

Hi Everyone,

All change yet again, as I'm writing this we are closed for the whole of November and the first week in December. As we are unsure of the ever-changing situation we are in, I cannot take bookings until things are clearer. I hope that by the New Year we might be able to start thinking of opening with a few activities that are manageable in these strange times.

I wish you all a happy and a healthy Christmas and New Year. Chris.



Ireby

Parish Church of St James, Ireby:

The Children's Society

We are not able to hold a Christingle Service in church this year, but we still want to raise some much needed money for The Children's Society, so candle boxes will be available in church in December.

Please be generous with your donations. Boxes are to be returned to us in January – either at a service or to the churchwardens. Thank you.

Remembrance Sunday. It was very encouraging to see over 20 people, of all ages, gathered for the short Act of Remembrance held outside by the War Memorial.

Isel

Isel District Church Council would like to thank all who have responded so generously to our appeal for financial help last month. It is very heartening to find how important St. Michael and All Angels Church is to this small community. Thank you again.

Blindcrake Parish Charity

This charity scheme, established in 1981, is the successor to Isel School Charity. Its objective is to apply for *income for such charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Blindcrake, as the Trustees think fit.*

The Trustees would welcome suggestions from the inhabitants as to any schemes or proposals which might benefit from grants the Trustees have power to make. Such suggestions would need to be both charitable and for *general benefit.*

Please respond to the Secretary, David Roberts, The Old Almshouses, Isel, CA13 0QG. Tel: 01900 823547.

The **Blindcrake Village Hall** refurbishment project is continuing. The kitchen floor has been screeded, and the joiners are putting the kitchen units in. The new profiled ceiling has been plastered and will be painted as soon as it's dry enough, then the acoustic panels will be fitted.

Once this is done and all the light fittings and new fire detectors and alarms are in, the internal scaffolding can come down. We are currently expecting the main contractors to finish during November, but there will be some more work to do once they have finished, including redecorating.

We have had treatment for dry rot and damp proofing around the wall between the meeting room and kitchen, but there is more mycelium present in other parts of the hall. We need to have the main hall itself investigated and assess how much more funding we need to carry out this extra work; the timescale for finishing may depend on the final costings.

Plumbland

Plumbland, St Cuthbert:

Stating the obvious yet again, we are still being asked to curb our movements and social gatherings in order to try and restrict and defeat the current epidemic that is still affecting the whole world. We can do no more than follow the 'guidelines' imposed by the Government and do our best to keep ourselves safe. In times such as this, history shows us that people come together, to console, support and help each other, yet this is not possible under the present situation. The church is very aware that people are anxious, lonely and, indeed, scared at this time and so, here in the Binsey community area we are introducing a 'Need to Talk' project, by the Pastoral Visiting Group. Notices are displayed on our church notice boards showing names and telephone numbers of contacts. More details can be found near the front of this issue of the Binsey Link.

Despite the restrictions we were able to hold our annual Remembrance Service on the 8th November, it was well attended and valued.

However, we are not able to say, at this time, when our normal services will be resumed, but plans are being made to try and ensure that acts of worship will be possible at Christmas. What we will miss here at Plumbland is our Annual Carol Service when all the school pupils, with parents, grandparents and friends join us in a lovely, lively service. It will be sadly missed this year.

As our lives go on, we continue to pray and hold all our neighbours in our thoughts and wish that all may have a peaceful Christmas and New Year in the fervent hope that 2021 will indeed be a year of recovery to be welcomed and enjoyed by all.

With all good wishes to you all, from the Churchwardens and members of the DCC of St Cuthbert.

Setmurthy

St Barnabas Church

As I write this, we have just entered a second lock down with all indoor Sunday services suspended.

We sincerely hope there will be opportunities to worship in church during Advent & Christmas, but we will not know any details until after you have received this issue of the Binsey Link.

Alex & I will try & keep you informed by email, telephone & the church noticeboard.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the Harvest collection; £72 was sent to Water Aid.

We wish you all a peaceful & healthy Christmas & New Year with a chance to meet with your families.

Setmurthy Education Foundation Trust

Applications are invited to the Trust for consideration of grants from any young people living in the Parish of Setmurthy over the age of 11 years in full time education & from any further education classes meeting in the Parish Hall.

Applications to: Mr G Pickering, Banks Point, Dubwath, Bass Lake, Keswick.

Setmurthy Parish Hall

The Annual Report 2019/20

As I reflect over the last year, which has not been an easy time. Work continued on the refurbishment of the hall and with the weather proofing and associated structural work completed, we continued to use the building for our regular events. The educational craft group held their winter meetings on Thursday afternoons until all activity ceased in March.

In the meantime, the building was painted & the new curtains were hung. There was a mulled wine & mince pie offering after the annual carol service which was held in the Church prior to Christmas.

Then in January we held a Burns lunch with haggis neeps & tatties which was well attended. The committee was planning future events when coronavirus came into this country and we were locked down and encouraged to stay at home.

This gave us the opportunity to complete the scheduled work in the hall, renewing the toilet facility, which is now able to accommodate disabled people, sanding & sealing the parquet floor & replacement of the chairs.

We now have a hall to be proud of and we are planning events to bring the community back together again once we can meet safely. We are deeply indebted to all of the organisations that have given us grants which have enabled us to complete the refurbishment of the hall, in particular our thanks go to the Cumbria Community Foundation for the help & advice that they have given us enabling the project to be finished.

We are very grateful to Brian Marrs for all the external works that have been done so that the hall sits well in the grounds.

Peter Laws, Chairman

The hall can be booked by contacting Mrs Edith Wise on 017687 76381.

Torpenhow

Torpenhow DCC would like to wish everyone a joyful and peaceful Christmas, and hopefully a more normal 2021.

Christmas Services:

In the current circumstances services for December have not yet been arranged but may not be as normal.

You are welcome to any services organised, please contact Church Wardens, Clergy or go to binsey.org.uk for details.

Wythop

I apologise for the lack of any copy for Wythop in the November magazine. By the time I remembered it was too late!

Just when we were enjoying being able to have services in church again, we are in lockdown again. We hope that by the time you get this magazine we can have services again. Communal worship is so important to us all.

We are continuing to have the church open for private prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays from 10am to 4pm. If there is a service in church on a Sunday, we will close the church immediately after the service.

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously on our Gift Day. Your contributions have made a substantial difference to our income for the year.

Details of the Christmas season services will be available on the parish website – www.binsey.org.uk. Let us hope that when you get the next magazine at the end of January things will be a lot better.

Parish Council Information

Allhallows

The November meeting took place under strict social distancing rules in the Allhallows Centre.

The Council agreed that more information would be welcome from both Allerdale and County Councillors about decisions made in both Councils.

It was agreed to give donations to Allhallows Church and the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

The Allhallows Centre has now closed for the lockdown. The hall has been refurbished and although minor building work is still needed, the hall is ready for reopening when it is possible once more. There is a problem with unauthorised parking in the car park, and a tanker has damaged the tarmac very seriously. Urgent repairs are immediately necessary.

Unusually heavy rainfall has made work in the allotments difficult as well as the very popular play park being rain soaked.

Lesley Read has resigned after 15 years as a Parish Councillor. We now have four vacancies. Any applications from people in the parish to join will be most welcome.

The state of the Baggrow Lonning is causing great concern. We will ask yet again for Jim Lister our County Councillor to investigate the problem thoroughly and come back with a satisfactory answer. The lonning is very badly flooded as the repairs were carried out in the wrong situation.

All being well there will be a socially and responsibly organised Winter Wonderland event in the Allhallows Centre if regulations allow.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 4th January 4th 7pm in the Allhallows Centre. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

For further information please contact our Parish Clerk allhallows.parishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

Embleton and District

From the October meeting

Cumbria County Council

Consideration is being given to moving towards Unitary Authority Status which will reduce the administrative layers in the County. It is early days now but hopefully this will help streamline things in the future.

Footway Lighting

Do you remember being asked your views on this one? Well, our Clerk updated Parish Councillors that this matter requires no further discussion as Allerdale Borough Council are withdrawing the request for Parish Councils to consider taking financial responsibility for the electrical costs of footway lighting. Thank you again for responding.

The defunct phone box in Wythop is hopefully going to have a new lease of life!

At the July Parish Council meeting, Cllr P Howard noted that the Parish Council can adopt the old Wythop phone box for a nominal fee and he suggested that it could be converted into a lending library for the Parish.

We thought this was a great idea, not least because it brought a welcome lighter note to the meeting, and we are progressing with the next stage. This is a 90-day consultation period required by BT and we'll keep you posted of course. Meanwhile, please consider keeping your books for Cllr Howard to stock the Library.

Lanes or becks??

After all the recent rain some of our local lanes are more like becks, with water either pouring down the roads themselves or accumulating in deep puddles at low-lying points. Some ditches and gullies are clear, but the persistence of drivers mounting the verges instead of reversing to a gateway to pass each other means the ditches are blocked.

Please notify CCC via their 'Report a Fault' pages on their website and send a photo of the problem if you can, too. If you need to know a road number, then go the County Definitive Map, where clicking on the road you are reporting will flag up its ID.

Please note:

November items will appear in the February edition. The Parish Council does not meet in December, so the next meeting will be on Wednesday 27 January 2021 in a Virtual Meeting Room.

If you have a matter that you would like to raise please contact our Clerk, Becx Carter, on 077866 78283 or email her at embletonparishclerk@hotmail.com.

School News

Bothel School

Hello again everyone,
Well, I did hope that this piece would be written in very different circumstances from the last but, sadly, Covid-19 is still very much controlling so much of what we do. In school, we have managed to keep going calmly and carefully and I hope that the children have experienced school in much the same way as ever. They certainly seem happy to be here and very glad to be with their friends.

I was sorting through lots of old paperwork in the school office last week and some of the entries in the old log books and headteacher's diaries really made me reflect on how the school, and the whole community, has coped with other awful times in the past. When I read the entries written at the start of World War Two, I thought how it must have been for the families that were pulled apart when fathers left not knowing if they would return. But then I read the diary at the end of the war and the relief and joy that came through those hand-written notes.

Of course, in years to come, when people read through the notes written in these troubled times, they will also read about when this virus ended. It will come to an end, just like all bad times have.

And talking about endings, this is my last entry. At Christmas I leave this wonderful school and I'd like to say a last huge thank you to everyone who has made me feel so welcome and valued. I feel truly grateful to have been part of this remarkable little community for the past 21 years. Thank you so much and take care everybody.

Mr May

Ireby School News

This term has been a challenging one. With the priority of course being the need to keep pupils, staff, parents and the community safe, it really is wonderful to have seen the children continuing to learn and play as they should be including regular trips out of school. Forest school for the younger pupils has been especially fun. Making and cooking drop scones, and learning archery were some of their recent activities. The KS2 classroom is organised carefully and efficiently so that every pupil has their own workspace, stationery supplies and individual laptop to use. If a pupil has had to isolate at home, then they have easy access to continue their learning online. The planning, communication and dedication from all members of staff have managed to ensure that school life has been able to continue with the minimum amount of disruption and worry.

Here at Ireby, we have always had a strong musical tradition, helped over the years through links with Ireby Music Festival. We still offer weekly individual violin

lessons with Miss Peacock and have been particularly excited this term to have been able to start guitar lessons for every pupil with Colin Hendra. Yes, every child from Nursery to Year 6 has been provided with a guitar and has been enthusiastically enjoying weekly whole class tuition. We are looking forward to producing the next Brian May!

With Christmas performances cancelled this year, the Early Years / KS1 class will be filming their Nativity play to be live streamed for parents and grandparents to enjoy. The children have still been fortunate to have had regular visits, in their class bubbles, from the Revd. Stephen Banks and the Revd. Peter Gilroy. Just recently they had an assembly about Remembrance Sunday, and it was wonderful that on Sunday 9th November at 11am, the village could hear our school bell being rung by Chris Adams.

The KS2 children are busy putting together a photography exhibition, to be viewed online, celebrating and showcasing all their work this term. They recently went to the Lake District Wildlife Park to develop their skills further under the guidance of local photographer, Carmen Norman. This opportunity has been wonderful for the children and we can't wait to see their work.

Our Twitter feed @IrebyCESchool and school Facebook page are proving to be invaluable ways of keeping us all informed and up to date with the activities and achievements of the children during this time. Please keep having a look.

General

Cumbria Community Foundation's Winter Warmth Appeal

In a bad winter, 300 people die in Cumbria because of the cold weather. A fatality rate higher than most other areas of the UK and the elderly are among the most vulnerable. Cumbria Community Foundation's Winter Warmth Appeal raises funds to help older people across the county stay protected from the cold weather.

The Winter Warmth Appeal, in partnership with Age UK across Cumbria, is now in its eleventh year and in that time, through the warm generosity of others, has raised over £1 million. More than a thousand older people who struggle to afford to heat their homes benefit each year. This year the charity hopes to raise £200,000 to help keep Cumbria's most vulnerable warm and well this winter. The cost of fuel is rising and there are many old, rural homes in Cumbria which cost more to keep warm. It's becoming increasingly harder for people to afford to heat their homes, especially for those that no longer have a steady income. There is also a connection between cold homes and increased risk of respiratory illness, which means any waves of COVID-19 during colder months could have a catastrophic impact for people who already have health conditions when they cannot afford to sufficiently heat their homes. This is why the Winter Warmth Appeal has never been more important.

Please consider donating to the Winter Warmth Appeal and help those who are having to choose between heating and eating.

You can donate online: www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/winter-warmth-2020 or send a cheque (made payable to: 'Cumbria Community Foundation' and write 'Winter Warmth' on the back) to Cumbria Community Foundation, Dovenby Hall, Dovenby, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 0PN or simply call 01900 825760 and we can take your donation over the telephone.

Dog Fouling!

As we are in lockdown again and spending more time in our lovely countryside, please could we remind members of the public of their responsibilities when using footpaths, particularly when they are off the beaten track.

Dog fouling, as well as being unpleasant to other walkers, can cause pregnant cows to abort their calves. Please pick up after your dogs in a proper manner using the bins provided and please ensure that you leave all gates and accesses as found - if in doubt, close it.

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2021

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To allow the dispensary to provide an efficient service at this busy time please remember you can leave your medication request on the dedicated answer-phone line 24 hours a day - **016974 78296**

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With best wishes to you all for the Festive Season.



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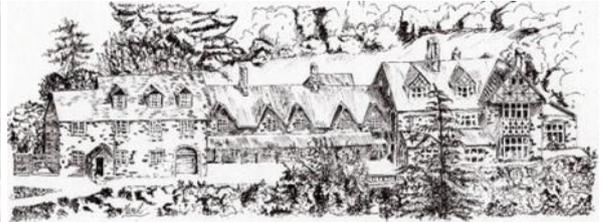
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