

# *Lyvennet Link*

**December 2021**



**Number 216**

**The Newsletter for Maulds  
Meaburn,  
Crosby Ravensworth,  
Kings Meaburn and Reagill**

# LYVENNET LINK

**Next Issue - 1st January 2022**

**Copy deadline 25th December 2021**

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The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor, the Parish Council or MMVI. The right to edit any contributions is reserved and inclusion is subject to available space. Articles and contributions etc., would be appreciated preferably by e-mail [nickthomas@macace.net](mailto:nickthomas@macace.net). Please send items as either text in the body of the email or as a word document. (apple-mac files acceptable)  
Please do not send Microsoft publisher documents as I am unable to open them.

## Welcome to the December edition of the Link.

It has been kindly distributed by Darren and Sarah Rogers and Kitty Smith. Their contact lists will not reach everybody, so please feel free to distribute this as you wish. If you are not on any of these lists and would like to be please email me at the email address above.

Many Thanks to all contributors and in particular the Rogers, Kitty, Vicky and Joan who regularly help make these lockdown Links varied and interesting.

Special thanks are due to David Natrass for the superb photographs he sends in via Kitty each month. I always think how good they'd look on a wall - or a calendar?

Thank to Darren and Sarah Rogers and Kitty Smith for distributing the Link through their contact lists. Nick Thomas.

Editors top tip: Martin Harley at CRVH.

Cover photo of maple tree on MM Village Green by Kitty Smith

# **Seasonal services and events at and with your parish church of St Lawrence**

for other church services please see [www.northwestmorlandchurches.org.uk](http://www.northwestmorlandchurches.org.uk)

**Sunday December 5th [Advent II]** 11.00am Holy Communion with Bishop James Bell

**Sunday December 12th [Advent III]** Joint Holy Communion at Cliburn with Revd Stewart Fyfe

**Wednesday December 15th COMMUNITY 6.00pm CAROL SERVICE** with Revd Stewart Fyfe - his last service with us at CR

**Sunday December 19th [Advent IV]** 11.00am Holy Communion with Rev Alun Hurd

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY** Holy Communion at 10.30am with Bishop James Bell

**Sunday December 26th** 11.00am Joint Holy Communion at Clifton with Bishop James Bell and Revd Kenneth Boyd

**2022**

**Sunday January 2nd** The Epiphany 11.00am Holy Communion with Bishop James Bell

**Sunday January 9th 11.00am** Joint Holy Communion at Morland with Revd Stewart and Carolyn Fyfe - their farewell service

**Sunday January 16th 6.30pm** Covenant Holy Communion Service with the Methodists taken by Revd Andrew Sterling

**Sunday January 23rd** 11.00am Morning Prayer and Baptism of Arthur Blenkinship led by Revd Sheila Clark

**PS** If any of you would like to contribute to a leaving gift for Stewart and Carolyn after their 11 years with us including Carolyn's recorder and piano lessons in school, please contact David Jones on 714 338 [david@newbyendfarm.co.uk](mailto:david@newbyendfarm.co.uk) or leave an envelope in church with the well defined title of STEWART FYFE and we will make sure it reaches the correct place. Thanks.

## **Other seasonal events for your diary**

- **Tuesday December 7th:**

**a Christmas Journey in church:** our Church Primary School will

be going on a journey, following the Gospel accounts of the Nativity in church with dramatic interludes!

Afternoon but actual time tbd. Other families invited to join the journey of 45 mins or so. More to be revealed on Facebook.

- **Wednesday December 15th: 6.00pm**

**Community Carol Service with Stewart Fyfe**  
- see services above.

A great way to start your Christmas season, so why not join us, well -wrapped, to enjoy traditional carols played on our wonderful organ played by Jim Walker. Traditional warm refreshments afterwards, suitably distanced.

- **Saturday December 18th: Christmas Carols on two greens and outside a pub.**

- We meet on **MM green** opposite the 'bus shelter at **5.00pm**, cosy in warm layers of clothes and with torches.

- We carollers sing in the cold air, to bring Christmas cheer to MM then make our way past **Hopper Hill** where we will sing again
- on our way to **Stoneworks Garth in CR**. Here we stop for a while to bring in yet more cheer..... mince pies/warm beverages welcome!
- From here we stop at the **church gate** and sing again, to create our form of worship before heading for
- the outside awning of the **Butcher's Arms at around 6.30pm**. Here we can carol awhile and hope others join us.

**[If you would like to eat at the Butchers' please book beforehand [715 500]]**





Have your little ones made the nice list this year?

The big man himself will be visiting us at  
**THE BUTCHERS ARMS**  
on Christmas Eve at 4pm.

If you would like your child to be added to the list to receive a gift please call 01931 715500.

The cost is £5 per child.

Deadline for names on the list is 12<sup>th</sup> December.

# Reagill Village Hall

We are ready to welcome overnight visitors to Reagill Village Hall. The building was formerly the oldest school in Westmorland (founded over 400 years ago) and it has undergone a gradual programme of modernisation. It is community run and holds a special place in the hearts of generations of villagers. We can now provide a fully fitted kitchen with a new cooker, new fridge and microwave. There are a variety of heating options including overhead electric heaters on a meter and two multi stove heaters. Extra logs can be purchased at £5 per bag. You can be assured of a really warm and cosy stay.

There's an inside disabled toilet and another one outside. We will have a 'power' shower fitted by early October. There are blow up beds for four adults and two children (one double, two twin and two children's) and two camp beds and a camping mat (thank you Andrew). Any additional guests may be able to bring sleeping mats and sleep on the floor. Bring your own bedding.

There is a yard outside and the garden area has now been strimmed. Reagill has no street lights, by choice and, on a clear night, the stars can be seen.

We charge £12 per night per person with a minimum charge of £25 for a night.

The hall is not available on Monday nights during term time and we have a regular booking in the middle of the day for outdoor enthusiasts to have their lunch from 16 October to 1 February. During the Christmas period there will be private bookings and a booking for the Reagill Christmas Party. Please contact me for availability. My email address is [margaret.wilcox@talk21.com](mailto:margaret.wilcox@talk21.com), phone 07804291972 (not good reception in Reagill) or 01931 715320, if no answer leave a message and I'll get back to you.

# MARTIN HARLEY - LIVE IN CONCERT

**Thursday 9th December, 7.30pm  
Crosby Ravensworth Village Hall**

**One of the world's finest acoustic guitarists will be playing a rare solo gig at Crosby Ravensworth Village Hall this winter.**

After years of touring the UK and abroad with his band, award-winning roots and blues guitarist Martin Harley will perform his own original songs in an intimate show on Thursday 9th December at 7.30pm.

Harley was nominated as Acoustic Blues Artist of the Year at this year's UK Blues Awards and Total Guitar Magazine ranked him number 16 in the World's Best Acoustic Guitarist.

His new acoustic show, which is part of the Rural Highlights Touring Scheme, combines songs exploring hopes and fears for fast changing times with Harley's trademark root, blues and slide guitar style which The Guardian described as 'spellbinding'. Cardiff-born Harley has released eight albums both in the UK and in Texas and Nashville. An album with long time collaborators Grammy-nominated Daniel Kimbro and Sam Lewis is on the way for 2022. He has played to full houses across the world including the Union Chapel in Islington, Vancouver and Calgary Folk Festivals, Glastonbury Festival, Bestival and Beautiful Days in the UK. He has toured extensively and performed at the Americana Music Association UK's AmericanaFest in London, The Bluebird in Nashville and Tønder in Denmark. We are truly privileged to be hosting Martin in Crosby Ravensworth - a night not to be missed!

**Booking is essential and tickets are £10 adult | £6 child | £30 family and can be booked & pre-paid by visiting <https://highlightsnorth.co.uk/event/martin-harley-live-in-concert/>. Alternatively you can ring 07584 251352.**



**Thursday 16th December**

**Crosby Ravensworth Village Hall**

**Raya & The Last Dragon  
(PG)**

Evil has returned and it's up to a lone warrior, Raya, to track down the legendary last dragon to restore the fractured land and its divided people. Disney animation.

**6.30pm-9.00pm**

**PLUS GAMES | REFRESHMENTS  
FREE TO PARISH CHILDREN  
HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM  
CROSBY RAVENSWORTH VILLAGE  
HALL COMMITTEE!**

**More info 07584 251352  
lynn-barnes@outlook.com**



**Crosby Ravensworth Parish Tree Group**  
**When did you last plant a tree?**

**Tree planting is now in fashion!**

**Come and Join us!**

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 10 am we will be planting trees and hedging on Burnt Croft, to the east of Stoneworks Garth in Crosby Ravensworth. Everyone is welcome at any age, just bring a spade and do your bit to save the planet!



AT

The Butchers Arms

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

At 7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

All Welcome

Donations of Raffle Prizes  
Welcome

Proceeds for New Years Eve Fireworks.

**Post:** Part-time Teaching Assistant

**Address:** Crosby Ravensworth CE Primary School

Penrith Cumbria CA10 3JJ

**Salary:** £19, 698 per annum, pro rata (PG5, PCD5, SCP6)

Post is initially until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 when a review will take place.

**Hours:** 12 1/2 hours per week (Preferably mornings to meet the needs of the school curriculum but may be adapted to meet the availability of outstanding candidates).

This post is term time only.

**Start date:** February 21<sup>st</sup> or ASAP

### **New Year New Start**

Our school seeks a well-organised individual with an eye for detail to provide support across the primary curriculum to children aged 3-11. Previous experience in supporting mathematics in the classroom and through intervention work would be particularly advantageous. Working alongside experienced class teachers, you will provide a high standard of support for all pupils.

Flexibility, dedication and a 'have-a-go' spirit are essential characteristics for anyone who joins our happy team in this beautiful small rural school. This is a unique and special opportunity to make a mark on the county's most appreciative children.

For further details and an application form, please see the "About Us/Vacancies" section of the

school website [www.crosbyravensworth.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.crosbyravensworth.cumbria.sch.uk) or email: Mr Duncan Priestley, the

Headteacher on: [head@crosbyravensworth.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:head@crosbyravensworth.cumbria.sch.uk)

In return, we can offer you:

A varied workload

A friendly and supportive working environment

## Opportunities for training

The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be required to undertake an enhanced disclosure via the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS).

To appreciate the uniqueness of this opportunity and to learn more about the importance of our Christian Values of 'community, courage and compassion', please telephone 01931715265 to make an appointment.

Please email completed application forms with a covering letter summarising your skills, abilities and experience to support your suitability for the post, to Mrs Pauline Cleasby at [admin@crosbyravensworth.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@crosbyravensworth.cumbria.sch.uk) Please note that CVs will not be accepted.

Closing date for applications is 12 noon on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Short listing will take place Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Interviews will be held week beginning Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## **NEWS FROM CROSBY RAVENSWORTH C OF E SCHOOL**

Before we tell you about what is going on in the lead up to Christmas, we must tell you about some activities from last month, first.....

Children in class 1 went to Appleby Grammar school for a basic moves festival which they all enjoyed. A few days later they were then off on a trip to Kendal for a clay workshop at the museum there. The workshop offered by Rag Tag Arts allowed the children to explore and work with clay and having practiced a wide range of skills, then used what they had learned to make a Diva Lamp as part of their Diwali Day celebrations. There are some great photos on the school's website.....take a look. Class 2 meanwhile visited Glasgow and attended the Central Mosque there and Synagogue as part of their study in to major world faiths. There was so much to see and learn that there were a few tired children on the coach journey back.

Years 5 and 6 have also attended a Tri-Golf competition at Appleby Grammar School.

Then of course November wouldn't be November without Pudsey Day, for Children in Need. The children came to school dressed in whatever they chose with an emphasis on spots and covered a drawing of Pudsey Bear with coins.

On a different note six pupils from class 2 represented us at Asby's annual inter school quiz night held over 'zoom'. They did really well, coming fifth out of 10 teams who entered.

Then to end November there was a Forest School Day when the children were outside for much of the day working with willow, composting leaves for the vegetable beds and toasting campfire food. Forest Days are always popular with the children.

And so moving on to this month.....well there is our Christmas Fayre on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December between 5 and 7pm....please come along and support us. There will be side stalls, a tombola, Christmas games, a raffle and refreshments will be served. It's always a lovely evening. Then on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December the children will be performing their Christmas play, which this year, is 'The Magical Christmas Jigsaw'. The children have been practising their lines and learning the songs. Having acted in their own play they are then getting the chance to watch one....and will be going to see 'Cinderella', this year's panto at the Sands Centre.

And finally we are pleased to be able to welcome you back (subject to the Covid situation nearer to the time) to the Community Christmas lunch which will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December at midday at CRVH to take advantage of the extra space...to book your seat and enjoy a fabulous feast prepared by Freda, our amazing cook, please ring school on 01931 715625.

Our after school clubs until the end of term range from indoor games and Christmas crafts to Victorian Christmas and Razzmatazz. Our breakfast and afterschool clubs mean that we are able to provide wrap around care from 8am to 5pm. If you have, or know of someone who has a child interested in joining our school, then please contact us on 01931 715265 to arrange a special COVID safe visit.

We are also seeking a part time teaching assistant to work 12 ½ hours per week preferably mornings-please see the 'vacancies'

section of the school's website for more information and details of how to apply.

I don't think that we have missed anything out....so good luck on winning the well fed Christmas cake if you have entered a brown envelope and we hope you have a lovely Christmas. See you in the New Year.



### **WIN A WELL FED CHRISTMAS CAKE**

It's that time of year again. If you would like to win a 'well fed' Christmas cake please pop by the village shelters in either Crosby Ravensworth or Maulds Meaburn, write your name and phone number on a brown envelope (left on the table), put £1 in to the envelope and seal it, then post it in the tub before 5pm on 13<sup>th</sup> December. The winning envelope will be drawn on 15<sup>th</sup> December after the community lunch. All proceeds go to Crosby Ravensworth C of E Primary School.

Thank you for your support and GOOD LUCK.

## **UPDATE FROM THE MM SHELTER**

We do miss Kitty's preserves and Little Pickle Cards in the shelter but I am pleased to say that a range of greetings cards and Christmas cards will be available once again, this time to raise funds for Eden Animal Rescue. They are priced at £1.50 each. The Christmas cards come as individual ones and also in packs of two (with each design viewable back and front). There is an honesty jar inside the basket for the money. THANK YOU.



### **DID YOU KNOW.....?**

**You can now buy duck eggs in Maulds Meaburn.**

**They are FOR SALE outside Hill House which is the white house, on the left, two before MMVI, if coming from Crosby OR second on the right after MMVI coming the other way.**

**Either call in at the house or go to the box.**

**They are priced at £2.50 for six duck eggs.**

**(Honesty Box)**

**Quails Eggs now available £2.50 per dozenc**



# **AIR AMBULANCE COLLECTION**

**ITEMS COLLECTED ARE, CLOTHES, BEDDING,  
SHOES,BELTS, TOWELS,HANDBAGS, COSTUME  
JEWELLERY, BELTS, HATS, BOOKS HARD & SOFT  
BACK,CDS,DVDS, VIDEOS,INK JET  
CARTRIDGES,MOBILE PHONES, USED STAMPS IN A  
CLEAR BAG.**

**NO DUVETS, PILLOWS OR BRIC A BRAC**

**USE BLACK BIN BAGS YOU HAVE FOR ITEMS**

**PLEASE LEAVE BAGS ON THE FLOOR FOR  
COLLECTION. Items to be left before 9am on the  
day.**

**DATES ARE: WED 8<sup>TH</sup> DEC. Wed 12th January**

**INFO KITTY 01931-715375 EMAIL**

**[kitty.s65@btinternet.com](mailto:kitty.s65@btinternet.com)**

# Lyvennet Cookbook

## **Apple Strudel**

2 large cooking apples finely sliced

100g soft brown sugar

1tsp ground cinnamon

30g butter - diced

Juice and zest of 1 lemon

100g raisins

500g frozen puff pastry

Plain fluid for dusting

15g melted butter

1tblsp Demerara sugar

Pre heat the oven to 200'c fab 180'c and line a baking tray with baking paper  
In a bowl combine the apples, sugar, cinnamon, cubed butter, lemon juice & raisins

Roll out the pastry to form a large rectangle about 3mm thick.

Arrange the filling down the centre third of the pastry. Using a sharp knife cut each of the outer sides of the pastry a 2cm intervals forming strips.

Fold each end of the pastry over and the alternative strips over the filling to make a lattice work.

Brush the top with the melted butter & sprinkle with Demerara sugar.

Transfer to the oven and bake for 30-35 mins until the pastry has puffed up and golden

Serve the strudel dusted with icing sugar & pouring cream

Diane Ridgway. CR

# **BOOZY FRUITS**

**8-10 portions**

**1lb mixed dried fruits**

**(Apple rings, pears, apricots, peaches ect)**

**2 pts water**

**1lb granulated sugar**

**6-12 tablespoons brandy**

**1. Soak fruit overnight in**

**1pt of water.**

**2. Put rest of water in pan with sugar. Bring to the boil to dissolve sugar.**

**3. Add drained fruits and cook gently in syrup for 15 minutes.**

**To serve now: add brandy to taste. Serve hot or cold over icecream.**

**To freeze: cool, put in rigid container, seal & label. Use within 3 months.**

**To serve from freezer: thaw overnight complete as in to serve now.**

**Tracey Seddon. CR**

# Sticky Sausages

Pre heat oven to 190c /170c fan/gas mark 5.

**Using 30 small cocktail sausages, toss them in 3 tbsps of clear runny honey making sure they are fully coated.**

**Place in a foil lined roasting tray and cook for 20-25 minutes turning frequently.**

**Move swiftly to a serving plate once cooked. Serve warm with cocktail sticks.**

Variations can include the addition of:1 tbsp of hoisin sauce

And/or

1 tsp of whole grain mustard

And or

1 tbsp of sesame seeds

**Alison Bold, Reagill**

## Xmas Day sprouts

These are lovely & a few friends are converted to eating them !!

Melt 3oz butter in a frying pan

Small red onion chopped

Half lb pound sprouts shredded

Pack of diced pancetta

Double cream

Salt & black pepper

Method

Melt butter in a frying pan add the onion & pancetta until brown.

Add shredded sprouts & fry until cooked.

Pour in enough cream to coat & then serve , black pepper to taste.

Sometimes I add a few cooked sprouts to go on the top.

Kitty

CHICKEN LIVER PÂTÈ

100 G/ 4 oz BUTTER  
225 G/ ½ lb CHICKEN LIVERS  
1 MEDIUM ONION, PEELED & CHOPPED  
1 CLOVE OF GARLIC, PEELED & CRUSHED  
1X15 ml/ 1 tablespoon FRESH CHOPPED HERBS  
SALT, MILLED PEPPER  
1X15 ml/ 1 tablespoon BRANDY

MELT HALF THE BUTTER IN A PAN & ADD CHICKEN LIVERS.  
FRY SLOWLY TURNING FREQUENTLY FOR 4 MINS.

REMOVE FROM THE PAN LEAVING THE JUICES.  
ADD THE FINELY CHOPPED ONION & GARLIC TO THE PAN & COOK  
SLOWLY WITHOUT COLOURING THEM UNTIL SOFT.

ADD THE REMAINING BUTTER, HERBS, SALT & PEPPER TO TASTE &  
COOK FOR A FURTHER MINUTE.

THE JUICES START TO THICKEN AT THIS STAGE.

ADD THE LIVERS AND BRANDY & PUT THE WHOLE LOT IN TO AN  
ELECTRIC BLENDER & WORK TO A VERY SMOOTH PURÉE.

SPOON INTO 6 INDIVIDUAL RAMEKINS OR A SERVING BOWL & CHILL  
BEFORE SERVING.

SERVE WITH HOT TOAST.

TO FREEZE, WRAP IN FOIL, LABEL & USE WITHIN 3 MONTH

If it is to be kept for a few days do not reduce the amount of brandy.  
Liz Kearsley , CR

# 8 November 2021 – Ordinary Meeting of Crosby Ravensworth Draft Minutes

The final minutes and all minutes can be found, in full, on the Parish Council website:  
<https://crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk>

**Present:** Councillors: Cllr D Hewitt (Chairman), Cllr J Raine (Vice Chairman), Cllr V Holroyd, Cllr A Beatham, Cllr D Ridgway, Cllr D McCall, Mr C Barnes (Clerk - Part).  
1 members of the public was present.

## **Apologies.**

Cllr R Mclvor – Health Reasons. Cllr N Hughes. CCC.

## **Declarations of Interest.**

None.

Cllr Raine's involvement with the yet to be constituted play area group was noted.

## **Governance Review.**

The Emergency Plan had been reviewed and updated with reference to GDPR compliance (personal information removed) and risk generally. Functions the council could not deliver or which were delivered by volunteers ('nice to haves') had been excluded leading to a shorter plan focussing on what the council could deliver. The lead contact would be replaced with a mobile number which councillors would circulate on a rota.

The document would be circulated in draft to councillors.

The council's other policies & documents had been examined and issues that should be resolved had been identified in the process including procurement (tender thresholds/ references to EU Procurement no longer applicable etc.)

It was AGREED that an incremental process of policy review led by Cllr Ridgway would be implemented over the next three months culminating in the adoption of revised Standing Orders/Financial Regulations prior to the year end in March 2022 would be developed as follows:

GDPR Compliance (Privacy Notice)

Code of Conduct

Equality and Diversity Statement

Bullying and Harassment Statement

Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Where training needs were identified it was anticipated that these could be addressed through Eden District Council/Calc.

## **Holly Cottage Update.**

An email update (from Cllr Holroyd) had been circulated regarding Holly Cottage

Registration of the property was pending the completion of an easement from the neighbouring property.

The transfer of the Utilities accounts (including electricity feed in tariff) was underway.

The asbestos survey had identified two only issues (Cystern & Flue) that would require non specialist involvement in removal, double bagging and Chairman's liaison with Flusco recycling / disposal centre.

Estimates for the building works were coming in with one provider yet to complete their figures. An analysis was being prepared for discussion decision in the new year. Councillors should be prepared for a 20% uplift in net project costs. It was anticipated that this would require a review of the proposed term of the PWLB loan and proposed rental costs.

Advice regarding VAT indicated that delaying the project start to after March 2022 would have the consequence of reducing the rate of VAT from 20% to 5% a substantial saving.

A Zoom meeting with planners had been highly instructive with a clear go ahead to remodel the porch without losing any permitted development rights, to widen the gate, to replace wooden windows with UPVC etc.

12 people had come forward to help with the management of the garden and had made a substantial impact clearing growth.

The position of the trees in the garden had been sketched/noted and on this basis, discussion had taken place with the YDNP's acting trees officer as to their management needs. The acting trees officer was not proposing to place a TPO on the Monkey Puzzle Tree but had expressed the view that it should be retained/managed. He was proposing to write to the council before leaving the authority with a letter enabling requested actions/ management re pruning and removal of a dead chestnut tree which would require a replacement tree to be sited in the garden somewhere. It had been suggested that this might be a walnut tree planted in memory of Ted Relph.

A request to buy the old stove had been received and Councillors AGREED that the old stove could be disposed of.

### **Play Area.**

Feedback was given on the play area coffee morning (Cllr Raine) where a questionnaire seeking feedback and an indication of support had been circulated.

A copy of the questionnaire was circulated at the meeting for councillors to consider and complete.

A photomontage had been prepared and arrangements were being made to site it in the Village Hall.

The play area group had not decided to constitute itself at their last meeting which had not been fully attended as a consequence a bank account had not been opened.

Cllrs noted the VAT advice referred to on the agenda (Agenda Item 12) had significant implications for how the project was set up and delivered to maximise Vat efficiency. The Parkinson Partnership had been critical of the idea of an independent group delivering the project. As things stood the council had not yet made a resolution to proceed with the refurbishment as a parish council project.

The RFO raised concerns that the two projects (Holly Cottage £180k/Play Area £42k) if delivered simultaneously would amount to a significant combined value of capital expenditure net of vat. Budgeting and planning for VAT properly would be important to both projects. In Vat terms the treatment of the two projects was very different with the play area project being relatively straightforward.

A councillor proposed that an alternative approach to replacement could be developed whereby the council replaced specific items of play equipment on a piecemeal basis (one at a time) as funds became available.

It was accepted that the impact of Local Government Reorganisation would be significant potentially generating windfalls to the benefit of the play area in the short term (before March 2022) and presenting difficulties over management arrangements (liability, inspection, maintenance and insurance) in the long term which might fall upon the Parish Council directly.

Cllr Raine confirmed that Eden's management commitments were under a contract that was due to end in 2027.

A member of the public present and connected to the project anticipated that it might take up to 6 years to raise the funds required to deliver a project of the value described.

A councillor would approach a former professional contact and the clerk regarding VAT issues

### **Devolution of Services.**

Cllr Raine reported on Eden District Council's project Devolution of Services vis 1. Footway Lights (to be decommissioned/withdrawn in March 2022).

2. Play Areas not relevant to Crosby Ravensworth.

3. Toilets not relevant to Crosby Ravensworth.

It was noted that the Parish Council had not supported the principle of its adopting the footway lights and associated costs to maintain the service going forward.

### **Tree Works MMVG.**

The clerk deplored a series of inappropriate & undermining emails addressed to him and circulated to all councillors which had been received from a councillor immediately prior to this meeting regarding the felling of a Sycamore (T33) adjacent to School House and other matters relating to Maulds Meaburn Village Green.

Councillors were reminded that the felling of this tree had been identified as an item in the priority 1 group following the tree survey done in January 2021 as follows:

This report had been presented to the parish council's meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> where priority 1 & 2 works had both been approved without dissent from any councillor present (MMRGT 143/20.4). The works had been delayed pending the outcome of a tree works application (to fell) to YDNPA which had been submitted by the contractor in May 2021. Approvals had been delayed owing to staff changeovers at YDNPA and the application to fell had been granted only in September following which the tree had been partially dismantled pending the possible sale of firewood which it was intended would defray the MMRGT's costs in having it felled. It was explained by the Clerk that the trunk had been left standing so that the sward beneath it was not damaged while the sale of wood was being organised.

*'T33 – Sycamore, this tree has been in decline for a number years of and has historical decay from Ganoderma as well as soil compaction and disturbance from renovation of*



*the adjacent Old Chapel [Old School]. The risk to the adjacent property and highway would necessitate its removal as the tree is becoming increasingly unstable (P1)'*  
096/21

It was AGREED that the wood would be offered for sale via sealed bids to be opened at the December meeting.

Councillors AGREED that a condition of sale would be that sawdust arising from logging would be removed from and not allowed to stand on the green.

### **Tree Works MMVG.**

A quotation had been received for the felling of the large mature dead sycamore (T16) opposite Hill House which had been reported to the council by the Clerk at its meeting on September the 6<sup>th</sup>. This tree's sudden death was a surprise. Decline had not been noted previously and enquiries had been made from the acting trees officer at YDNPA as to possible causes. It had been confirmed that this could happen and that the tree may have been stressed by lack of water in the early and mid part of the season. As the tree had died YDNPA had confirmed in a phone call that no consent to fell was required. It was however requested by YDNPA that a new tree be planted to replace it.

Unfortunately, the tree was in a very inaccessible location on a steep bank, it was very large and withdrawing branches uphill to the road side would be difficult. The quoted cost was £1,195+vat.

It was AGREED to fund this cost from the Maulds Meaburn Recreation Ground Trust's resources and to instruct the works to take place outside the nesting season.

### **Police House Fence**

Consent had been given in a phone call from the YDNPA's Acting Trees Officer for the felling of the hedge at the Police House. This would enable the installation of a new post and rail fence as authorised by the council on the 1<sup>st</sup> August. YDNPA had requested that a new hedge was planted inside the fence of a variety of suitable native species.

It was AGREED to approach the trees group over this.

### **MMVG Tree Planting.**

YDNPA's Trees and Woodland Officer had offered £2k of funding to fund the planting of established trees together with protective cages. The funding could be disbursed directly to a supplier on the council's behalf.

1. It was AGREED to accept the funding on terms to be arranged with the Clerk and to receive a report for approval in due course.

### **MMVI Platinum Jubilee.**

MMVI had suggested the planting of a commemorative tree on the Green to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Clerk had discussed this with the Trees and Woodland Officer at the YDNPA in connection with the above and the proposal to plant a Silver Leaved Tree as part of the planned works had been made. It had been agreed that the tree should be planted at an appropriate time but that a plaque unveiling/dedication might take place at the time of the Jubilee itself. The Clerk would report back.

Councillors noted recent requests from the Bell Family and the Family of the late Maureen Newrick both long term residents of the village for commemorations on the Green which the Chairman was authorised to progress by direct negotiation.

## **Correspondence.**

A letter of objection had been received to the proposal to fell the Monkey Puzzle tree at Holly Cottage. Community engagement with the garden and project was welcomed by the council and it was AGREED that the objection should be respected.

A letter requesting a donation from the Fell Runner Bus had been received and it was AGREED 'in principle' to make a donation at a similar level to last year.

## **Finance.**

The Second Quarter Bank Reconciliation and List of Payments and Receipts was APPROVED. The receipt of the precept and a planned increase in Police House rent was noted. The closing balance was £32,822.21.

## **Finance.**

The Second Quarter Budget Monitor was APPROVED. The RFO expressed the view that the budget would have to be revised as the Holly Cottage project was progressed as completion within the financial year was not now achievable.

Insurance Costs showed an increase arising from the council's consolidation of its insurances with one insurer. The Clerk would review the analysis to ensure that that insurance costs relating to Holly Cottage were correctly analysed. Expenditure overall was down owing to the council's recent inactivity.

## **VAT Advice. Holly Cottage/Play Area.**

Vat advice had been received through CALC from the Parkinson Partnership and had been circulated to Councillors. In respect of the refurbishment of Holly Cottage, the Clerk/RFO was not satisfied as to:

The exact method to be used to reclaim VAT? (126 or Contractor's Certificates)

The basis on which the 7-year average ceiling of claim applying to Local Councils was to be estimated (should it include a budget figure/forward projection for VAT reclaimed/due in respect of the Holly Cottage project?) The underlying reclaim of vat was just short of £1k per annum well short of the ceiling. But this figure would be significantly increased by the refurbishment of the play area and Holly Cottage.

Specialist advice was needed that covered local councils (not vat registered) and construction/refurbishment.

The clerk had been refused a direct response by the Partnership who were only prepared to provide written answers to Calc with whom they had a contract or to provide paid training courses. Councillors were uncomfortable with this arrangement.

The Clerk had also wished to explore the costs of retaining the partnership to assist with budget calculations and oversight on VAT matters.

He had subsequently spoken to the RFO at Penrith Town Council (a former District Council Head of Finance) & Mitchinson and Co Accountants who provide a payroll service to the council. Both had felt unable to provide advice.

In regard to the Play Area the Parkinson Partnership had made comment on the legal position admitting it exceeded their remit. However, their advice regarding VAT was clear. If the Council procured and funded the provision of equipment on the basis of free access

for all. The VAT was 100% recoverable, if an independently constituted group commissioned the equipment VAT was not recoverable.

A councillor offered to pursue an enquiry with a former colleague with appropriate expertise. A further report would be made to Council.

#### **Pre-Budget Discussion.**

Councillors discussed the Budget for the 2022 2023 year.

It had originally been envisaged that the Holly Cottage project would impact on this financial year. However, this had not happened yet and consideration of the VAT position favoured a start date after March 2022 when the rate of VAT due would be 5% and not 20% owing to the relief granted due to the period for which the house would have then been unoccupied.

In practical terms Holly Cottage expenditure could be disassociated from the underlying budget as expenditure (likely to be increased) would be balanced by Public Works Loan Board funding which could be adjusted.

The modelling of VAT costs in regard to recovery remained problematic but did not necessarily need to impact on the underlying budget which would be used to set the precept.

It was felt that there would be inflationary impacts on both income and expenditure of the underlying budget and it was AGREED that a draft would be prepared on the basis of a 5% increase across the board.

Councillors discussed the reserves. Currently the Council held a restricted (Police House) and unrestricted reserve. The implications of renaming the Police House reserve as the Assets Reserve were considered. It had been originally named Police House Reserve because the Police House was the council's only significant property asset likely to require betterment and it had been opened as a sinking fund for that purpose. However, the transfer of Holly Cottage and the potential refurbishment of the playground made review of the position worth considering. This issue had been raised in a meeting before and councillors speculated that it might have implications in relation to PWLB funding. The Clerk would examine the position.

A draft budget would be presented to the December meeting.

#### **Play Area Grant/Funding.**

The council was asked to consider making a grant to/financial provision for the refurbishment of the play area. £2,000 of match funding was required as match for the Eden Community Fund whose next and possibly last distribution would be in January 2022. Options were to retain funds in a restricted reserve - if the council was to deliver the project from the year 2021 2022 and 2022 2023 or to offer the funds to a constituted group from the reserve when it was set up.

It was AGREED that the draft budget would be prepared with this in mind for discussion decision at the next meeting.

Next Meeting 6th Dec 2021 7:30pm CRVH

# Photographs by David Nattrass

Decay, honey mushroom, cock pheasant in sunshine, roe deer & barn owl.







next page:

Autumn colours oak trees & Atlantic salmon 19/11/21 dead by the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

What a stunning Fish.



*View from Dale Banks taken by Gill Kynaston at Dale Nook.*

