

Lyvennet Link

Number 206

February 2021

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



Cover Photo courtesy of Vicky Welch

LYVENNET LINK

Next Issue - 1st March 2021 **Copy deadline 25th February 2021**

c/o Nick Thomas, Brackenslack Cottage, Maulds Meaburn. Tel. 01931 715 010

e-mail: nickthomas@macace.net

**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. 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 February 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.

Again, this Link is only being sent out via email. I have no plans currently to move back to producing a printed version, though I am open to comments about this.

There may be a very limited number of printed versions in the village shelters but please do not take one of these if you have access to a digital version.

Many thanks to all contributors and again to Darren Rogers and Kitty Smith for distributing the Link through their contact lists.

Nick Thomas.

SERVICES AND NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH CHURCH
St Lawrence

Sunday January 31st

11.00am Holy Communion with Bishop James Bell

Sunday February 14th

11.00am Holy Communion with Rev Stewart Fyfe

Sunday February 28th

11.00am Holy Communion with Rev Sheila Clark

We are leaving the Season of Epiphany [the revelation or appearance] which is why the star has been shining out from the Tower, thanks to Mike Winterburn.

The church's year now moves towards **Lent** starting on **Ash Wednesday February 17th**, culminating in **Easter**, 7 Sundays later on April 4th this year.

But every day, church is open for private prayer, contemplation and candle lighting so please feel free to come in. We cannot afford to keep all the lights on all the time so it may look a bit gloomy inside, but then your lit candle will look even brighter.

Please follow all signs and use the sanitiser stations.

If you would like specific prayers said by our clergy or one of the members of church, please feel free to ask.

Your call/email will be entirely confidential:

alex@ydfc.co.uk [716001] or any PCC member mentioned on the church notice board inside the porch.

KATIE'S CAKES

You will recall how a couple of years ago, Katie raised a lot of money with your help, for a number of national and more local charities. Well, she's doing it again, but this time just to raise funds for local animal rescue charity, EDEN ANIMAL RESCUE. The range will be more limited than last time, just because of time, what with lessons and school work, now that Katie is at secondary school but the old favourites of fruit cake, lemon drizzle and chocolate brownie will make an appearance with may be the odd raspberry and white chocolate! The local facebook pages will be kept up to date when Katie has baked and the cakes will be in the shelter at MM on a Sunday morning. The first two Sundays have been 'sell outs' with lots of lovely comments including the word 'scrumptious' and 'excellent lemon drizzle'. If you would like to pre-order please ring Sarah on 715575 or email sarrog@btinternet.com. Thank you for your support.

BROADBAND UP GRADE TO EVEN FASTER SPEEDS IN OUR PARISH

- Please see <https://www.ispreview.co.uk/index.php/2020/11/rural-wireless-and-ftp-isp-lonsdalenet-acquired-by-voneus.html>

- our new owners have big plans for the area and yes Crosby Ravensworth is included in the plans.

Malcolm Ridgway has kindly offered to be the broadband champion to gather interest to up- grade to even faster internet speeds to enable home working, new business ventures, better streaming quality etc.

If you are interested please contact Malcolm – email address is m.ridgy@btinternet.com

Kitty Smith

Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save.

When you look at yourself from a universal standpoint, something inside always reminds or informs you that there are bigger and better things to worry about.

We are all here on earth to help others; what on earth the others are here for I don't know.

A NEW YEAR – A NEW OPPORTUNITY. Get involved, help the community.

We have vacancies for two new Foundation members of the Governing Board of our successful Primary School and also a Parent (or family) Governor. We are a positive and motivated school community and were rated as “Good” by Ofsted in their inspection in 2020.

We are a Christian school with core values of Compassion, Community and Courage. We aim to nurture a love of learning in our safe and happy environment, enabling children to flourish, ready to live life in all its fullness. Our Christian vision underpins all we do.

As a Christian school, new governors would be required to sign a declaration stating they “profess the Christian Faith”.

Whilst you do not need previous experience of being a school governor, a background in business or education would be helpful, particularly roles with financial and/or budgetary responsibility. However applications would also be welcomed from anyone with the interest, enthusiasm and time to learn and train to become a member of our Governing Board. Due to COVID, training can only be offered via online courses, but telephone or email support can be provided by fellow governors. Successful applicants will be subject to a DBS check.

Governors are required to prepare for and attend one Full Governing Board meeting per term (3 per academic year), plus termly meetings of various committees, and sometimes working party meetings. You must also be willing and able to deal with email correspondence regarding school matters within a reasonable timescale.



Due to COVID-19, currently governors cannot attend school and we work via Zoom meetings and email. In normal times, governors are encouraged to attend school events, monitor a particular given subject, help out with projects, e.g. reading, and become involved in school life.

We are a friendly bunch of people, proud of our small school with its happy atmosphere, friendly and enthusiastic children and a great team of staff. Please consider joining us if you are looking for a worthwhile and rewarding way to get involved and contribute to the management of our school.

If you would like to find out more, or just chat it through, please contact:-

Linda White, Chair of Governors - 07482 248355 - Chair@crosbyravensworth.cumbria.sch.uk

Debbie McCall, Vice Chair - 01931 715950

Thank you

Please could you include the litter picking list with the Link and ask folk to get back to me with their chosen route I have equipment available in my porch. Many thanks, Joan. joanraine@hotmail.com

Litter Picking Routes 2021 Update 4

<u>Route</u>	<u>Name</u>	
Fellgate to Gilt.	Andrew and Barbara Wallace	
Village shelter to Fellgate.	Andrew and Barbara Wallace	
Silver street to Bankhead.	Debbie and Neil McCall.	
Village Shelter to Hill view.	Jill Winder	
Haberwain Hill to High Haberwain.	Sass Robertson	
Haberwian Farm to Greenlane.		
Greenlane to Oddendale Rd End.		
Oddendale Rd End to Trainrigg's Bridge.		
Greenlane.	Karen Winder's Bubble	
Greenlane to Reagill		
Greenlane to Wintertarn	Melanie Graham	
CR Village Shelter to MM Village Shelter	Jill Winder	
MM Village Shelter to Meaburn Hall		
Dents Bridge to Meaburn Edge and Mark Fallon, Martin, Immy and Rowan Gill.	Gill Rutherford and Pete Button	Alison
Meaburn Hall to Barnskew Rd End	Martin, Immy and Rowan Gill	
Meaburn Hall to Reagill Rd End	Chris Norman	
Reagill Rd End to Reagill	Hazel and Joan	
Brackenslack	Sam Green	

Valentine's Day

Be in with a chance to win a £20-00 voucher for the Butchers Arms donated by The Health and Wellbeing club. Display your love for the community, your spouse or your house with a Valentines display. Send a photo of your display in the form of an attachment to joanraine@hotmail.com by Friday 12th of February, this will then be forwarded to the judge. Hopefully the winner will receive their voucher in time for Sunday 14th of February Valentine's day. I have a limited number of wire heart shaped door wreath frames, a donation of £1-20 each is welcome for each heart to reimburse the H&W club. Contact Joan Raine on 01931 715351 or via email if you require one.

Be in it to win it! Joan Raine

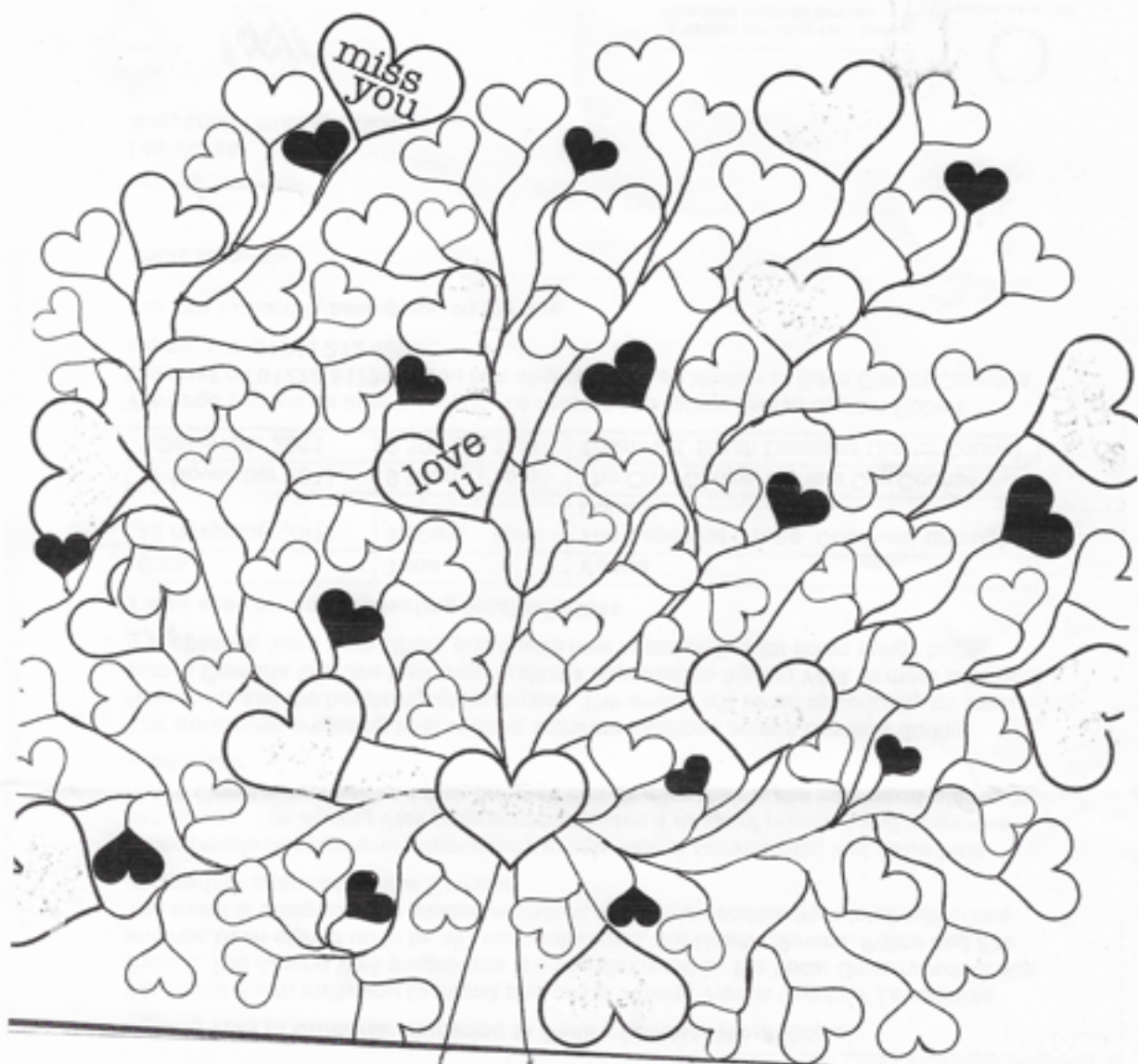
The Conversation Heart Tree on the next page is to print off if you wish. The idea is to fill in the hearts and let the leaves/hearts fall with events and family that folks would have loved to have seen or attend during in 2020 as we move into 2021. Joan Raine.

A suggestion has been made regarding an art Heart in the landscape.

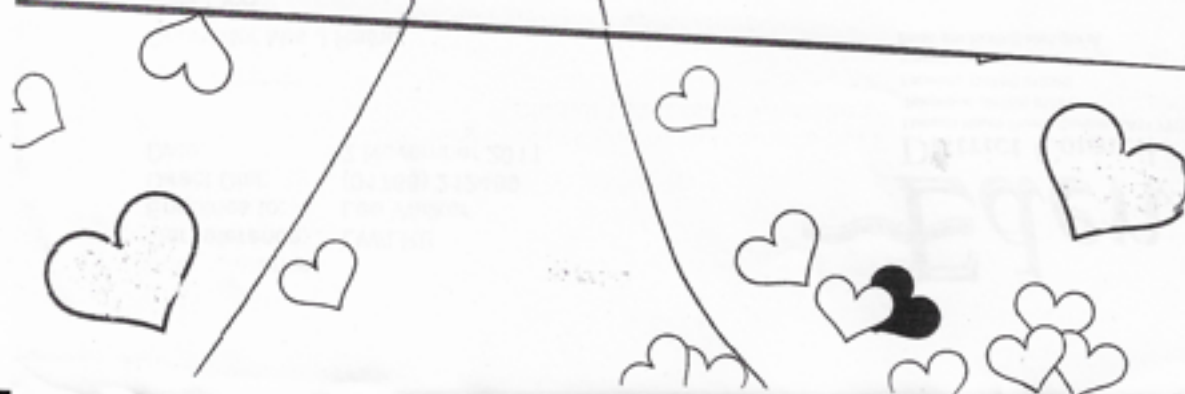
A photo of a Heart in the community this could be a Heart in the snow or a Heart made of stones or a painted stone featuring a Heart.

Obviously, some hearts may have disappeared and cannot be part of the trail but the photographic evidence can still be judged.

Thanks Joan



"Conversation Heart Tree"



Food Bank Collections in Village Shelters

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Appleby and Penrith Food Banks in December. You were very generous indeed and the food banks were very appreciative!

Lots of people have said that they enjoyed feeling we were achieving something as a community! So we have decided to run a further, experimental, 3 month collection starting mid -February.

We will have a lidded box in each shelter which will be emptied daily. We will publicise the items most urgently required in the shelter and on the Facebook page. We will try to focus specifically on things in short supply and also to include fresh produce items that the food banks can genuinely cope with as this was something many people commented on!

Thank you in advance for all your kind DONATIONS!

Best wishes

Alison Fallon 715607 and Philippa Cordingley 715886



Holly Cottage, Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council Consultation

The Will of the late Ted Relph bequeathed his former home, Holly Cottage, to Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council stating that the home

‘should be let to some worthy local family applying the rent so received firstly to keep the premises in a reasonable state of repair and any surplus to be used for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish’

Should the Parish Council decide not to accept the Bequest then the property will revert to the Estate and the other beneficiaries listed in the Will.

The Parish Council commissioned a detailed condition survey along with an estimate of potential costs from Lewis Conservation. There is considerable work required to bring the property up to a rentable standard and one that meets the legally required Energy Performance Criteria.

As a flavour of the scale of works the property needs repointing, replastered, timber treatment, new kitchen and bathroom, new plumbing and drainage, heating, new electrics, chimneys repaired, asbestos removed etc. The current estimate for the works is £129,000 with a further 12.5% contingency sum of £16,000 for unexpected works. With some additional costs associated with making the property ready for rental the full figure is around £150,000. All the figures exclude VAT as the Parish Council can recover this tax.

The Parish Council can access finance via the Government's Public Works Loan Board which offers funding at extremely competitive rates for terms of up to 50 years. Funding the require £150,000 would cost the council:

£530 over 30 years at 1.67% interest or
£480 over 35yrs at 1.78%interest

The interest rate is fixed for the duration of the loan and payments can be made to reduce the balance at any time with zero charges.

Comparing the above costs to an estate agent's potential rental value of between £750-£800 per month the loan costs are well covered. The Parish Council could decide to make the rent more affordable and there would still be a healthy surplus.

Parish councillors at their meeting on 18th January 2021 were unanimous in their support to accept the bequest and progress the refurbishment.

One of the requirements of the Public Works Loan Board application process is that the Parish Council provides evidence of consultation with the community to further inform its decision to proceed.

To this end we have posted all the information including Condition Survey, Valuation, PC report on the Parish Website at

www.crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk

should you wish to express a view on the proposal please leave a comment on the website or telephone / email the Clerk, Christian Barnes clerk@crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk or contact any of the Parish Councillors.

AIR AMBULANCE COLLECTION

WED 2ND DECEMBER

WED 14TH JANUARY

WED 9TH FEBRUARY

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

NO DUVETS, PILLOWS OR BRIC A BRAC

USE ANY BAGS YOU HAVE FOR ITEMS

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

**INFO KITTY 01931-715375 EMAIL
kitty.s65@btinternet.com**

CROSBY RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL – WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Clerk to the Council: Christian Barnes, West House, Tenter Row, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 3HY. t. 07584 251 448, e. clerk@crosbravensworthparish.org.uk www.crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk

Parish Council Small Grants

The Parish Council makes small grants to local organisations to help with activities in the community.

To apply please email the council for details at the above address or contact the clerk by phone.

The Council is looking to allocate its remaining grant fund to the end of the financial year 31 March 2021 (£1,060) at its meeting on the 2nd March 2021. Completed applications must be submitted before the 23 February 2021.

In the recent past the council has given small grants to support organisations like The Fell Runner Bus, The Crosby Ravensworth Tree Group, Crosby Ravensworth First Responders, The Friends of Crosby Ravensworth School, The Maulds Meaburn Village Institute and Crosby Ravensworth Village Hall.

JCSB. 6 January 2021

census 2021

Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society

Households throughout Cumbria will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once in a decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

“This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That’s why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity, and, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

To be part of this exciting event, why not apply for one of the many temporary roles available by visiting www.censusjobs.co.uk ?

For more general information on the census, visit census.gov.uk

The Butchers Arms Community Pub New Menu

Jon & Katie would like to thank you for your Continued support.
Please see the website for opening times & further information.

www.thebutcherscrosby.co.uk



Takeaway Menu

Week Commencing Wednesday 3rd February 2021

Please place orders by ringing us on 01931 715500

OPENING HOURS

PLEASE SEE WEBSITE

www.thebutcherscrosby.co.uk

MENU

12" Pizza (gfr)	- Margarita (v)	£10
	- Veggie Feast (v)	£10
	- Meat Feast	£10
	- Spicy Beef, Peppers, Pickled Jalapeño 🌶️	£10
	- Loaded Pepperoni	£10
	- BBQ Pulled Pork	£10
Fish, Chips + Mushy Peas, Tartare (gfr)		£10
Sweet + Sour Chicken, Egg Fried Rice, Prawn Crackers (gfr)		£10
Southern Fried Buttermilk Chicken Burger, Fries, Pickled Slaw		£10
Creamed Leek + Lancashire Cheese Puff Pastry Pie, Green Vegetables, Chunky Chips (v)(gfr)		£10
Pulled Pork Burrito, Rice + Beans, Nachos		£10
Sticky Chilli Pork Ribs, Fries, Slaw		£10
Chicken Korma, Fragrant Rice, Mango, Naan (gfr)		£10
Plant Based Burger, Coleslaw, Fries (v)		£10
King Prawn Nasi Goreng (gf)		£10
Fish Pie, Cheddar Mash, Buttered Green Vegetables		£10
Beef Rendang, Fragrant Rice, Mango, Naan (gfr) 🌶️		£10

(gfr) - Gluten Free On Request (v) - Vegetarian



Sides - Skinny Fries / Dripping Chips / Slaw	£2
Garlic Bread Pizza with Cheese	£5
Kids Pizza (choose from above)	£6
Chicken Nuggets, Chips + Peas	£6
Fish, chips + peas	£6
Sausage, Fries + Beans	£6

PLEASE ASK ABOUT OUR DESSERT SELECTION

How It Works

Ring us with your order on 01931 715500 from **3pm** and **11am Sunday**.
Select a collection time. We will limit to 5 minute time slots to make sure we comply with advice. Please turn up to collect your order at the agreed time.

Please pay for your order over the phone with a debit/credit card or pay cash when you collect

We thank you for your custom AGAIN and we very much look forward to resuming back to the normal personal service we usually offer.

❤️ STAY SAFE! ❤️

NEWS FROM CROSBY RAVENSWORTH C OF E PrimarySCHOOL

Well school might be closed but the children (with the much appreciated help of parents) are getting on with their set work and adapting to virtual lessons, making use of today's technology.

Christmas seems like a long time ago now, but you will remember the Christmas cake raffle.....we are pleased to say that £125 was raised for school funds. A lot of brown envelopes were posted in to the boxes in the shelters! As a result of the amazing response and to reflect what a difficult year it has been, Sarah donated two cakes and the two winners were Amanda Hall and Margaret Jarvis. Both were delighted to have won and have enjoyed their cakes. Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser.

Caption Competition

Only one suggestion this month !

'Excuse me, have you got room for a little one?'

Hilary Jenkinson



Monthly Weather Summary – November 2020

November was a very mild month with little in the way of frost and overall was very quiet. However, it was often dull and grey with few cheerful days and whilst we got rid of the month's wettest day on the 1st, rain, whilst not especially heavy, still fell on most days - overall a cheerless month.

The month began mild and wet, the 1st especially, which was both the wettest and warmest day of the month, before a brief quieter and settled period during the 4-7th.

After this it turned unsettled and was very mild both by day and night. The unsettled weather was blown in on a strong S-SSW airflow, it being wet and windy through the 11-17th in particular.

A brief northerly airflow gave a cool day on the 19th, but the theme was still of unsettled conditions before it became more settled and cooler from the 26th.

Both the mean maximum and minimum temperatures were well above average and equally so. It was only the two air frosts towards the end of the month that brought some respectability to the final total (3) for the month.

MSLP of 1051.1 Mb was +4.3 MB above the local average for the month and overall a mean minimum of 4.53°C and a mean maximum of 10.53°C saw the temperature 1.74°C above the eleven year average for this site.

It was the warmest since 2015 and of the twelve now recorded, two have been warmer and nine have been colder - the highest maximum temp' recorded being 14.5°C (1st), the lowest minimum -3.0°C (28th).

Rainfall of 37.2 mm (Maulds Meaburn North 131.1 mm -- Castlehowe Scar 159.9 mm) was 104.6% of average for 2007-19 and made it the wettest November since 2018.

Of the fourteen now recorded, four have been wetter and nine have been drier.

During the month the following was recorded: nothing!

No snow, no hail, no fog - it was really quite boring and dull.

The wind speed averaged 6.87 mph, with a maximum gust of 56 mph (1st) and ground frosts totalled ten.

AUTUMN - Wetter and generally slightly warmer(^) than average.

A very mild November has tended to off-set the cooler than average months of September and October and whilst rainfall has not been excessive, it has been fairly constant.

This was certainly the case in October and November which saw the season finish that bit wetter than average - overall though, a fairly disappointing season.

There was no real warmth in September and both October and November were really quite dull and lacking of any decent spells of sunshine.

September was a cold month, especially towards its close with a good number of nights experiencing ground frosts.

October was wet at both ends, but especially during the final third and November was uneventful, dull and mild.

Maulds Meaburn recorded 377.7 mm of rain (112.5% of average) (Maulds Meaburn North 359.8 mm) which makes it the wettest since 2018.

Of the fourteen now recorded nine have been drier and four have been wetter.

A mean temperature of 9.21°C is the warmest since 2017 and at this site is 0.06°C colder than the average of the previous eleven (^at sites with a 30yr record in Cumbria it tended to be slightly warmer than average).

Of the twelve now recorded five have been colder and six have been warmer.

Darren Rogers

Picturing the Westmorland Dales

This autumn children in the Westmorland Dales have been exploring the landscape through land art. We are working with Community arts 'We are Team', land artists 'Stomping Ground' and 6 local primary schools using Land Art creations to celebrate local landmarks and nature. This lovely project has helped connect children with the natural world encouraging them to look closely at materials such as sticks, pine cones, stones, soils, leaves, grass and wool. They have created collages using natural materials, using them like a paint brush, creating beautiful art pieces. During these sessions children began first by creating individual art pieces which helped to develop their skills and fire the imagination leading to the final group piece. The children chose an image, made a frame and built the image up in layers, like a sketch before fine tuning the outlines of the final piece. Some of the images created by Primary schools include Hardendale Cairn and Smardale Viaduct, Nine standards, a red squirrel, a short-eared owl, Orton Scar monument and a Tebay fell pony. Jon Chappell from M60TV filmed and photographed the sessions which showcases their work and bring the schools together in this unifying joyous project. It highlights the children's connection to their villages and creates a sense of place and a sense of hope for the future.

Many thanks to the children and teachers at our fantastic local Primary Schools who enabled this to happen. Orton C of E School, Crosby Ravensworth C of E School, Asby Endowed School, Tebay Primary, Shap CE Primary and Kirkby Stephen Primary School.

They work so hard to maintain a sense of normality whilst keeping children safe during these difficult times.

Please have a look at this film-'Picturing the Westmorland Dales' is a little bit of joy for a dark night!

<https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/land-art>

For further information about the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme please email Nicola Estill : nicola-estill@fld.org.uk

A coast to coast? From California to Cumbria!! Part V

A coast to coast? From California to Cumbria!!

There we were again, sitting in the departure lounge at Manchester airport, this time bound for a country in the Southern Hemisphere, a really, really long way from home! 23 hours on two different aeroplanes, both care of Emirates Airlines delivered us safely to Christchurch airport on what had been a very dark January evening when we had taken off from Manchester, but was a bright, sunlit afternoon in New Zealand.

There they were again! Meeting us at the arrivals gate as their various flights had delivered them into Christchurch the previous day, the chattering, laughing faces of Tom, Jane, Wendy, Krista & Bev (Mo & Jordan couldn't make it but Lee - Bev's new husband was joining us part way through in Queenstown).

Once again we were whisked away but this time we were driving on the "correct" side of the road and they didn't feel quite so confident so we soon took over the driving for a good part of the travels, and travel we did!

The plans concocted by Jane were to see as much as was physically possible in four weeks: two weeks on South Island, two weeks on the North Island and I have to say her meticulous planning provided us all with a terrific sprinkling of culture, scenery, experiences and appreciation of so much the country has to offer. Krista, Jane, Wendy and Bev were walking the Milford Track, ending in the Milford Sound area; Gordon, Tom and I drove to Otago in the south eastern area and rented a delightful chalet close to the bike trail which we explored of course on bicycles! The weather was perfect pretty much all the time we were in NZ, the only poor weather we encountered was at Auckland airport awaiting our flight home!

Our only regret was not having the opportunity to visit the city of Christchurch which was still coming to terms with the devastation wreaked upon it by yet another force of Nature in February 2011 when 185 inhabitants lost their lives following the second earthquake within six months. Our Californian friends had spent their first day visiting the various shrines, the most poignant of which was the collection of white chairs representing those lives lost. But there was a sense of such positivity on rebuilding both the physical and the mental aspects shattered by this dreadful earthquake.

To drive was a dream, quiet roads for the most part and well maintained and fortunately we didn't encounter too many Chinese tourists as reports of their driving

skills in NZ had reached us and costs for renting transport was escalating for tourists generally due to the increasing number of accidents.

Five days later we all met up and to celebrate their achievement of completing the Trail we sailed out of Milford Sound for a stunning cruise in fantastic weather, blue skies and calm seas - just what we ordered!

Then the big journeys began road wise, having met up with Lee in Queenstown, but first a diversion to Kawarau Bridge for three of our party to do a spot of bungee jumping....not a chance!!!

I think I mentioned very early on in these tales that we carried I Wuv You (dog) and Bovva (bear) with us on our travels and true to form these two characters made the jump each with one of the girls! They were very quiet in the car for several hours after their new experience....

Over the next three weeks we visited many of the fantastic spots NZ has to offer, a plane ride over the glaciers, a water taxi driven in to the water by a tractor, serious wine tasting in the north eastern region near Blenheim, the awesome InterIslander carrying us through Marlborough Sound to the North Island, ordering fish and chips eleven times in a sleepy hamlet on the southern coast north of Wellington, attending a Hangi (traditionally cooked food beneath hot stones) where Gordon was “selected” to meet the Maori Chief to ask for admittance to his village. We spent time in Rotorua where we zip wired within the canopy of exotic plant and bird life - part of the cost was donated to the upkeep of the canopy- and smelled the intense sulphur odour in the gurgling hot spots; we sampled the delights of the vibrant Auckland city before saying goodbye to the first to leave our band. From there we ditched the cars and caught a boat to one of the glorious islands for three days of wind down before the rest left our company for California.

We had always planned to stay on an extra week, mainly to recover from the non stop action packed four week kaleidoscope of fun, laughter, full on activities and to have a bit of time to ourselves too. We relaxed in the Bay of Plenty, opposite White Island and chilled out with the odd trip here and there, but the main reason we picked that area was to be within reach of a couple who had emigrated from the local area to NZ in May 2007 and we had always intended to visit them in Gisbourne. It was brilliant to see them and we were really pleased to have made the effort as we heard soon after our return home that an illness had sadly overtaken the husband and he had passed away.

Staying opposite White Island was indeed an interesting experience; neither of us had realised its significance until on our first morning there we saw what we thought was white clouds but on closer inspection through the binos quickly realised otherwise.

Indeed many of you will have read of the fate of the island and several tourists visiting the smoking volcano on 10th December 2019.

Our time on both islands of New Zealand was an incredible, minuscule insight into an unbelievable culture, focusing on restoration, nurturing life and protecting indigenous species in whatever way possible. We could learn a lot from their ethics....

Before we said our farewells to our Californian friends we all agreed to meet up again, and sooner than the gap we had had to NZ, but where to meet next time? Well...

And so that's how we came to be sitting in the departure lounge at Manchester airport....AGAIN!

But you'll have to wait until next time to find out where!

Vicky Welch

Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council

Draft minutes of meeting held on December 7th 2020

Present: Councillors: Cllr D Graham, Cllr. J Raine, Cllr D Hewitt, Cllr V Holroyd, Cllr R McIvor, Mr C Barnes (Clerk).

Apologies: Cllr A Beatham, Cllr N Hughes (CCC)

1 member of the public.

Public Participation.

Issues had been raised with councillors as follows:

1. A member of the public had raised the issue of moles on Maulds Meaburn Village Green | Clerk to raise with School Hill Farm.
2. A member of the public had raised the issue of a large Tractor being regularly driven along the back road and parked in Maulds Meaburn and associated 'damage' to the green. It was agreed that the tractor was a properly licensed vehicle and that the damage referred to was not significant. The use of local roads and parking for commercial/ agricultural vehicles had also been the subject of complaint in Crosby Ravensworth. The council had taken the position that as the vehicles were used in connection with parishioners' livelihoods the council did not feel, given the limited impact of such vehicles, that it was appropriate at the present time to restrict or control parking on land owned or controlled by the council.
3. A member of the public had raised a complaint about an abandoned tent in a field in Maulds Meaburn. It was agreed that the tent was situated on Private land and was a matter for the land owner to deal with.
4. A member of the public had raised a concern about trading activity in the village shelters. 'Trading' consisted of a limited range of products with payment by honesty boxes. It was agreed that the operation honesty boxes in the shelters was beneficial to the community and should not be

discouraged.

Co-Option, a member of the public considering seeking co-option to the council was welcomed to the meeting.

Planning E/03/50, Amended plans for householder planning permission for erection of single storey utility room and domestic workshop adjoining the existing garage; enlargement of existing gateway to allow vehicular access and reinstatement of first floor window to south elevation of dwelling.

It was confirmed that there were no access issues arising from the Council's control of Maulds Meaburn Village Green arising from the application although the reason for a second access was not understood. The Council maintains its objection to the application noting that the amended plans don't mitigate the objections raised previously. The proposed roofline is higher and a more prominent shape and the internal area is larger than previously proposed and it is noted that the application has been amended to include a second floor.

Planning 20/0859 LAND BETWEEN FERN BANK AND EAST VIEW REAGILL PENRITH CA10 3ER. Description: Variation of condition 1 (plans compliance) to update drawing references, condition 3 (external walling and roofing materials), condition 6 (details of levels) and removal of condition 7 (obscure glazed windows) attached to approval 19/0622. The council raised no objection.

b 20/0823 LAND BETWEEN FERN BANK AND EAST VIEW REAGILL PENRITH

CA10 3ER. Description: Discharge of condition 6 (surface water and foul water drainage system) attached to approval 18/0238. The council objects to the application. It was noted that the application addressed previously raised concerns

and was well designed to the property boundary. Beyond this point the drainage was to a ditch and piped culvert outside the site boundary. The council's objection

rests on whose responsibility it would be to maintain this drainage system?

Comments made by the Highways authority were noted and endorsed. If approval is

to be given, conditions relating to the maintenance of the full extent of the drainage system should be imposed.

Planning 20/0802 WINTER TARN NEWBY CA10 3EW. Description: Replace existing barn and roof over adjacent outside feed area. The council supported the application. The council raised no objection.

Planning E/03/15B. Land Northwest of Holesfoot, Maulds Meaburn, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 3HX. Full planning permission for creation of a pond. The council raised no objection.

Strategic Housing Economic Needs Assessment. It was noted that a need for two additional affordable houses was established. The Parish was divided in Planning Terms between the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Eden District Council as planning authorities. It was inferred from this that the area under discussion was therefore the Reagill Settlement which falls within the specific area of the Eden Plan. It was anticipated that there would be interest in and a need for detailed consultation over the next stages of the planning process. The Council raised no objection to the Strategic Housing Economic Needs Assessment.

Unitary Authority Proposals for Cumbria. Information on the many responses submitted by the district authorities had been circulated and it was noted that the Parish Council was not being consulted by government. In summary the proposals were:

CCC = 'One Cumbria' single unitary authority bid covering the whole of Cumbria.

1. Copeland & Allerdale = 2 x unitary authorities splitting into Cumbria East (Eden, South Lakes and Barrow) + Cumbria West (Copeland, Allerdale and Carlisle)
2. Eden & Carlisle = 2 x unitary authorities splitting into Cumbria North (Eden, Carlisle and Allerdale) + Cumbria South (South Lakes, Barrow and Copeland)

3. South Lakes & Barrow = 2 x unitary authorities splitting into 'The Bay' (South Lakes, Barrow and Lancaster City Council) + Cumbria North (Copeland, Allerdale, Carlisle and Eden).

The main concern of the Parish was how a Unitary Authority would maintain a positive relationship and communication with local councils with proposed abolition of the district councils. It was noted that CALC were addressing this issue. The experience of Buckinghamshire in becoming a Unitary Authority was held up by CALC as a case study.

Holly Cottage Update. The solicitors' valuation from probate purposes was £150k with an insured value of £415k. Lewis Surveyors (based at Brougham Castle) were appointed at a cost of £375 to do a piece of work to establish a scope of works and estimate of costs in respect of the refurbishment of the property. A project management service was also offered for contract preparation, tendering and management during refurbishment. This would allow the council to approach to the public works loan board.

4G Telecoms pre-planning consultation. The initial approach made in 2016 had not been progressed. The council's position had been to support the proposal for a 15 metre mast screened by woodland at Meaburn edge. It was agreed to ratify this and respond again to the consultation to encourage implementation. It was noted that the consultation was for a 4G signal when a 5G signal was now being rolled out nationwide.

Out of Parish Planning Application (EDC) 20/0787 & 20/0790, LAND EAST OF A6 SHAP Description: Installation of a flexible gas peaking plant and associated infrastructure to support local grid and renewable energy generation. The application was supported as making sense in relation to the existing infrastructure to provide power at peak need when baseloads fell short. Usage was projected to amount to an estimated 4,000 hours of temporary usage per year.

Electric Vehicle Charging, Dalston Parish Council had installed EV Charging through Charge my Street. The installation had not been funded from council resources. It was known that Charge my Street had investigated a site in Kings Meaburn and had determined that it was not a feasible site. There was discussion as to the idea of installing in the Villages of Crosby Ravensworth and Maulds Meaburn. It was felt that feasibility was unlikely to be established

at this time. A number of parishioners had electric cars and were using off road charging installed at their homes. An installation of this type would support EV users visiting the area. The equipment could deliver level 1 and level 2 charges meaning that time on charge was an issue.

It was decided to make enquiries of Dalston Parish Council in three months' time regarding uptake of the charging stations.

Insurance Costs Police House & Parish Archive. The Parish Council insured its properties with the NFU and over the last three years charges had increased by 20%. The clerk was authorised to place these insurances with the council's other provider Zurich with immediate effect if cost savings could be achieved. NFU had offered a discount of 10% in exchange for a commitment to insure for 3/5 years. It was agreed that competitive pricing each year was the only way to achieve long term cost savings.

Updates re Outstanding Actions:

1. Annual inspection of Trees (March 20) To be carried out in January/Feb 2021
2. Beck Wall at Sun Hotel (Aug 20) DG To follow up Priced at £150 with K Golding.
3. Land outside the Old Chapel MM (Aug 20) Letter sent to correspondent 26/11/2020 #1 enquiry re septic tank decommissioning #2 PC unable to dispose of land in MMVG or consent any hard landscaping/construction. #3 One of the agreements did not allow transfer on sale of the property and was therefore no longer valid.
4. Playground safety inspection CR (Aug20) - Fence and Seating – Seating made safe October 2020; Fence responsibility of EDC who had chain-link fencing on order and had undertaken to carry out works when the materials were delivered.
5. Speeding cars and tractors (Aug 20) Agreed to publicise in the Link that speeding tractors & quads as well as cars were a significant problem.

Police advice had been sought and Councillors & Parishioners were encouraged to report specific offenders, registration plates and the times offences were known. The council would be ordering traffic calming measures.

6. Grants Budget (Aug 20) The remaining availability of direct grants would be publicised in the link (February) and direct to previous recipients for decision at the March 2021 meeting.
7. Advice from Monitoring Officer re Disqualifications (Aug 20) The monitoring officer had advised that if a councillor had missed meetings for a period of six months without the council having granted a dispensation to do so citing a justification, that councillor would be disqualified from office. An apology for a specific meeting would not be sufficient.
8. Signs for Maulds Meaburn and Reagill Village Green (Sept 20) Clerk to implement.
9. Westmorland Dales Grant funding application (Sept 20) The idea of a management plan for MMVG (@ 5 years) was considered, DG to contact Westmorland Dales Partnership to discuss.
10. Diseased Ash Tree at Tenter Row (Oct 20) This would be felled on the 10th December with offers to the clerk for remaining timber to defray the costs by the 14th December.
11. Caravan parked on MM Green (Oct 20) This had been removed.
12. Willow over-growing Lyvennet MM (Oct 20) The response from the Yorkshire Dales National Park appeared to contain errors of fact which needed to be addressed. The prospect of advice or assistance seemed remote. The works were associated with the Public Footpath. PC to pass to YDNPA

Ranger Service.

13. Leak at BT Installation, Haberwain (Nov 20). This was linked to a utilities leak which was being investigated and remedied upstream. It was hoped that the problem could be resolved.
14. Relocation of Sandbags to rear of Village Shelter Maulds Meaburn (Nov 20) Clerk to arrange.

090/20 Date of Next Meeting 18 January 2021.

Note. After the close of the meeting Stuart Roberts who had been attending as an observer confirmed his willingness to be co-opted as a Parish Councillor from the next meeting.

Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council

Draft minutes of meeting held on January 18th 2021

Present Councillors: Cllr D Graham, Cllr. J Raine, Cllr D Hewitt, Cllr V Holroyd, Cllr S Roberts (Co-opted during the meeting), Mr C Barnes (Clerk).

Apols. Cllr A Beatham, Cllr N Hughes (CCC)

Public Participation.

Issues had been raised with a councillor as follows:

Dogs off a leash on Public Footpaths. It was decided that this was not a matter for the Parish Council and that members of the public should report these issues to the District Council Dog Warden.

Dog Muck (Littleside) and at (Flass Road) The Chairman walked these routes daily and had not seen any dog muck, It was agreed that EDC would be asked for the standard signs and the Chairman would install them. Annual Litter pick. It was decided not to proceed with an organised litter pick because of the Tier 4 lockdown. Cllr Raine would advertise the availability of litter picking equipment in the shelters for individuals to use while exercising. People litter picking would be asked to dispose of any pickings through their own refuse disposal/recycling.

Co-option of a Parish Councillor. Stuart Roberts was co-opted to the council and signed the declaration of acceptance of office. Cllr Roberts was welcomed to the council and it was agreed that he should attend the ‘effective councillor’ course as an induction at the next convenient opportunity.

The Local Government Act 1972-Section 85(2A). It was agreed that the circumstances surrounding the absence of Councillor Beatham were exceptional and arose directly from the unanticipated suspension of in person meetings during the Covid 19 lockdowns. Councillor Beatham wished to continue in office but did not have the necessary access to participate in online meetings. The council granted a further extension of 6 months.

Planning. E/03/54A, 15, Stoneworks Garth, PENRITH, CA10 3JE. Full planning permission for change of use of part of agricultural field to erect a double garage with associated access and parking.

The council discussed and agreed to support the principle of the development of a garage on the footprint shown in the plans. However, it was noted that the site location plan was incorrectly drawn. The blue line (ownership) was not complete, the development area (red line) includes an area of access land and highway not in the ownership and control of the applicant and upon which the development was in part to be carried out. Permission to develop on this land had not been procured. The application form incorrectly declares the applicant to be the owner of the land at section 25 as follows: 'I certify/The applicant certifies that on the day 21 days before the date of this application nobody except myself/the applicant was the owner of any part of the land or building to which the application relates, and that none of the land to which the application relates is, or is part of, an agricultural holding'

It was resolved to OBJECT to the application on this basis.

Planning E/03/16, Householder planning permission for erection of single storey rear extension, 4, Harberwain Lane, PENRITH, CA10 3HP. The application was SUPPORTED. Councillors were impressed with the quality of the plans.

Planning E/03/56, Full planning permission for erection of lean-to general purpose agricultural building, Brackenslack Farm, Maulds Meaburn, Penrith, CA10 3HX. The application was SUPPORTED.

Willow on Maulds Meaburn Green. Councillors resolved to support the offer of the Yorkshire Dales National Park to make good the willow bank at MMVG/ Bridge House and to extend the willow bank reinforcement/regrowth upstream from its current location subject to agreement that the YDNP would accept responsibility for the ongoing and regular maintenance of the works alongside the path,

Tree Felling at Tenter Row. The diseased ash at Tenter Row which had received consent for felling (051/20) had been taken down and the remaining wood sold for a top bid of £41. Unfortunately during Storm Bella the next but one ash tree upstream had snapped 5m from its base and was hung up. The Chairman and Clerk had agreed that the tree should be removed immediately as it represented an immediate danger. During felling operations, the tree had fallen taking out power lines and damaging two adjacent properties. The power had been immediately restored and arrangements for the damages to be made good had been made to the satisfaction of the householders concerned. The contractor had left the site and those involved in general a good order and no

complaints had been made. It was resolved that when in future a dangerous tree threatened power lines – The council would seek felling operations from electricity North West rather than instruct them directly.

Finance, The Third Quarter Bank Reconciliation and List of Transactions was presented and approved with a closing balance of £23,875.93.

Finance, The Third Quarter Budget Monitor was received and approved.

Tree Survey, Trees had been inspected/surveyed and two priced schedules of works - Priority 1 (£495) and Priority 2 (£450) provided for budgeting purposes. Councillors would be provided with the list of trees and plan to compare the schedule with the proposed works and a decision on works to be commissioned would be taken at a future meeting. <https://crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/20190603-Tree-Plan-Schedule-2017.pdf>

It was agreed to defer the consideration of the level of contribution to reserves to a future meeting.

Confirmation of Budget and Precept. Councillors agreed to set a precept requirement of £12,500. Equivalent to the previous year. The clerk was instructed to make an adjustment for CTRS when notified. The cost to parishioners in a band D property was £53.46.

The final budget would be posted on the council's website. Councillors decided during the meeting to make increases in provision for Police House Maintenance £500, Treeworks/Open spaces £2,000, Legal expenses £750.

The council's budget also showed figures relating to the refurbishment of Holly Cottage (£150k) as these works would be funded from an application to the Public Works Loan Board, they did not have a bearing on the precept requirement other than to increase the external auditor's fee. This item would be discussed later in the meeting.

Holly Cottage. The Chairman gave a verbal presentation based on the detailed written report with cost estimates presented prior to the meeting. Decisions were made as follows: _

1. Councillors were unanimous in their support to progress acceptance of the bequest.

2. The 'principle' of borrowing through the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) was approved. Any application would be subject to approval at a future meeting.
3. Communication and Consultation with parishioners was agreed as follows: An Article in the Link. A dedicated webpage with a form for responses on the council's website, the regular publication of agendas and minutes and the wide availability of these for dissemination. It was however specifically agreed that the project would not be publicised on Social Media relating to the Crosby Area.
4. Councillors agreed to the principle of using a rental figure (15% below market value) for the purposes of financial modelling. It was hoped that the house would eventually provide accommodation that remained relatively affordable.

Councillors were unanimous in their support of these decisions and it was noted that Holly Cottage could reasonably be expected to be a net contributor to Parish Funds from 2022 onwards.

Yorkshire Dales Local Plan 2023 – 2040. Part 3. Councillors would respond to the consultation using this link as individuals and using the consultation tools provided by the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

<https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/planning-policy/local-plan-2023-40/consultation-no-3-exploring-our-options-building-new-homes/>

This would be an item on the agenda for the next meeting when the council would decide what issues if any it wanted to raise with the park as a council before the deadline of the 26th February.

Letting of Village Greens. The Clerk was authorised to advertise the letting of the Village Greens.

Correspondence from Mini Eden. Correspondence has been received from Mini Eden a business based in Kirkby Stephen dealing in recycled children's toys and clothes it was proposed by Mini Eden to launch a travelling service and enquiries have been made as to whether this would be something that the

council would welcome. The council agreed that Mini Eden would be a welcome visitor and the clerk would contact Mini Eden to discuss possible locations at Stone Works Garth, the Village Shelters and Maulds Meaburn village green. It was noted that there were more small children in Crosby Ravensworth than in Maulds Meaburn and Reagill.

Census. It was noted that the Census was scheduled for the 21st March 2021

Date of Next Meeting This meeting would be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Maulds Meaburn Recreation Ground Trust carried forward from the 7th December 2020. Next meeting 1 Feb 2021.

18th January 2021 – Annual Meeting MMRGT

MAULDS MEABURN RECREATION GROUND TRUST

At Crosby Ravensworth Parish Archive at 8:45pm

Present Cllr D Graham, Cllr. J Raine, Cllr D Hewitt, Cllr V Holroyd, Cllr S Roberts (Co- opted during the meeting), Mr C Barnes (Clerk).

Apols. Cllr A Beatham

The Financial Statement was approved as follows: 2019 2020. The Trust had an opening balance of £1,653.41, 1 April 2019, Income during the year of £2,230.43, expenditure during the year of £1,680.01 and a closing balance of £3,137.83 at 31 March 2020.

On this basis the Clerk was authorised to submit the Annual Return to the Charity Commission.

The Trust had been unable to open a charity account with the Cumberland Building Society as a result of a change of policy by the Building Society. It had therefore been agreed to transfer the trust account to a deposit account at the Penrith Building Society. Signatories were: R McIvor, D Graham, D Hewitt and C Barnes.

It was resolved to deal with MMRGT Business in Ordinary Council Meetings.

Lyvennet Cookbook

Covid Comfort Cookies

200g peanut butter (crunchy or smooth)
175 g golden caster sugar
Quarter teasp table salt
1 large egg

Heat oven to 180c/160c fan. Line 2 large baking trays with baking parchment.

Peanut butter, sugar and salt . Put in bowl and mix well with wooden.spoon. Add egg and mix well until dough is formed . (Mine is usually quite wet!)

Break off cherry tomato sized chunks and place well apart on trays. Squash a little.

Bake for 12 minutes until golden round edges and paler in centre. Cool on trays for 10 mins then cool on wire rack. Store in tin for up to 3 days or eat them all now.

From Jackie in Hampshire tier 4 to Cumbria in tier 4 & also of 4 Riverside MM.

Vegan chocolate orange cheesecake

To mark Veganuary, here's a really easy and delicious dessert that you would never know was completely dairy-free. For a gluten-free version, use Free-from digestives and check the label on the dark chocolate, though most brands are gluten-free.

Ingredients:

200g vegan digestive biscuits, eg Aldi or other own-brand makes, check the label

70g margarine or dairy-free butter, melted just before use

270ml Elmlea plant double cream alternative

150g dairy-free cream cheese alternative

1 tsp sugar

130g icing sugar

150g dark chocolate eg Bourneville, Aldi Moser Roth, melted

2 tbsp orange extract

Method:

1. Line the base of a 7 or 8 inch cake tin with baking parchment.
2. Crush or blitz the biscuits in a blender and mix with the melted margarine/butter, then press mixture into the cake tin and leave to chill in the fridge for 45 minutes.
3. Cream together the icing sugar, cream cheese and sugar.
4. In a separate bowl whisk the cream until firm, ie a bit more than soft peaks.
5. Slowly add the cream cheese mixture to the whipped cream and gently combine.
6. Fold in the slightly cooled melted chocolate and the orange extract.
7. Once combined, spoon on top of the biscuit base and chill in the fridge for at least 2 hours or overnight.

Recipe adapted from Sophie Bullimore (instagram @sophie.bullimore).

Barbara Wallis , Well Head. CR

Chocolate fudge brownies

Ingredients:

8 oz good-quality chocolate (225 g), semi-sweet
12 tablespoons butter, melted
1 ¼ cups sugar (250 g)
2 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 cup all-purpose flour (95 g)
¼ cup cocoa powder (30 g)
1 teaspoon salt

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Line an 8-inch (20 cm) square baking dish with parchment paper.

Chop the chocolate into chunks. Melt half of the chocolate in a microwave or bain-marie; save the other half for later.

In a large bowl, mix the butter and sugar with an electric hand mixer, then beat in the eggs and vanilla for 1-2 minutes, until the mixture becomes fluffy and light in colour.

Whisk in the melted chocolate (make sure it's not too hot or else the eggs will cook), then sift in the flour, cocoa powder, and salt. Fold to incorporate the dry ingredients, being careful not to over mix as this will cause the brownies to be more cake-like in texture. Fold in the chocolate chunks, then transfer the batter to the prepared baking dish.

Bake for 20-25 minutes, depending on how fudgy you like your brownies, then cool completely.

Slice, serve and enjoy!

This is a favourite of the Arkle family at Fell Gate. CR

February in the Garden

by Vicky Welch

As I look out onto the valley it's begun to sleet; just the type of day to be thinking about preparing your patch for gardening I hear you say! NOT! However there are one or two tasks perhaps you could be tempted into at least contemplating.

I'm sure like me, several of you felt cheated last August when the Crosby Ravensworth Show was cancelled. However, looking about us now, if that's one of the worst things to have befallen us then we are doing a lot better than many so onwards and upwards.

I spoke to a couple of well known gardening companies last March and April; Mammoth Onion near Garstang and Rocket Gardens in Cornwall and both were completely swamped with seed, plant and gardening supplies requests. Rocket Gardens went from a client base in January 2020 of around 5,000 to 40,000 by the end of April; in adapting to cope with increased orders they employed dozens of locals in the county who had lost employment through the very thing that created jobs at Rocket Gardens. There's no reason to suspect that 2021 will take a dive in this new found thing called gardening so having contacted our editor asking about a gardening section, he said, "why not?" So here we go! (PS - I don't begin to profess I'm an expert!!)

February is a sort of water shed in the gardening calendar; yes, it's still cold outside but signs of spring's arrival are all around us - the daylight hours are lengthening (just) and in turn the bulbs are emerging. We've already had the brave snowdrops carpeting the verges, and those of you who have been organised will be seeing October planted garlic and broad beans peeping through, defying winter and saying, "I'm here!"

I've trawled a few gardening web sites and gleaned a bit of info about a few types of veggies, fruit trees and other suggested tidying up jobs.

The list could go on indefinitely I'm sure, but the beauty of gardening for yourself is to know your limitations and adapt to the conditions, be they weather driven or physical. But above all, ENJOY

Perhaps a flower growing reader might like to write something for the next Link?

- Start chitting early potatoes — stand them on end in an egg box and place them in a bright, cool, frost-free place.
- Mulch perennial vegetables such as asparagus and artichokes with well-rotted manure or garden compost.
- Build raised beds now, before the growing season gets underway. Raised beds allow you to make an early start in the garden; the soil warms up faster and raised beds drain quickly too, so they're a great way to deal with clay soils.
- Prepare vegetable seed beds by removing all weeds and forking in plenty of compost. Cover prepared soil with cardboard, old carpet, or if you have to, you could resort to black plastic bin liners, to keep it drier and warmer in preparation for spring planting.
- Rake lime into acid soils.
- Watch out for slugs! Try to avoid pellets as this destroys a vital food source for hedgehogs
- Remove yellowing leaves from brassicas, to prevent brassica downy mildew and grey mould from spreading.
- Tidy up vegetable plots, removing any remaining plant debris.

If you are lucky to have fruit trees or canes then there's also plenty to tackle here too.

- Prune raspberry canes. It's your last chance to cut autumn-fruiting raspberry canes to the ground to stimulate new canes to fruit in the autumn. Cut the tips of summer-fruiting raspberry canes that have grown beyond the top of their supports; cut just above a bud.
- Prune blackcurrant bushes, gooseberries and redcurrants to keep them productive.
- Mulch fruit trees with well-rotted manure or garden compost, but don't mulch up around the trunk.

- Winter prune [apple trees](#) and pear trees while they're still dormant. This is your last chance to do so.
- Leave [plum trees](#), [cherry trees](#) and [apricots](#) until the summer as pruning these fruit trees now will make them susceptible to Silver Leaf disease.
- Protect blossoms on apricots, nectarines and peaches from frost, but make sure pollinating insects can still reach the flowers.
- Force rhubarb plants for an early crop although this will render them weaker for future years.
- Cover outdoor strawberries with cloches to encourage an earlier crop.
- Top dress fruit bushes with a slow-release, potassium-rich fertiliser to feed plants for the forthcoming season.
- Check stored fruit and remove any rotten fruit.

And if you're still feeling energetic, then here are a few more suggestions to keep you and your garden happy!

- Trim deciduous hedges before the birds start nesting.
- Cut back vines such as ivy, Virginia creeper and Boston ivy. Doing this now helps keep windows, gutters and roof tiles clear.
- Shred or chop any woody prunings before you add them to compost bins, as this will help speed up decomposition.
- Wash empty pots by scrubbing them with hot water and a mild detergent. Rinse them well afterwards.
- Keep feeding the birds. The weather is still cold this month so hang fat balls and keep bird feeders topped up.
- Install water butts now ready for the summer. Rainwater is particularly useful for watering acid-loving, ericaceous plants (tap water is often slightly alkaline).

So, if you've found any of this useful or interesting then let the Editor or myself know and perhaps I may continue in the next issue.

Vicky Welch vickyveggiebox@gmail.com

Upcycling by Joan Raine

Photo one CD's and show rosettes,

Photo Two, Onion, Orange, lemon and pear bags to hang old DVD's and the bow on the recycled tyre, the red ball was retrieved from the river on a litter pick and real reindeer antlers. The white board was left in the shelter.

Photo Three and Four. A Christmas tree made from two wooden pallets and decorated with milk bottle tops and a star from the white board left in the shelter.

Up cycling for folks to enjoy!

Joan





These are a few of mine.

Photos by Kitty Smith

Washing line in my garden. The snowman is on the Milk stand at Low Row Bridge at CR **Kitty**







Photographs by Vicky Welch





All the above were taken at the top of Meaburn Edge





Photographs by David Nattrass







