

LOWCA LOWDOWN

December 2018



Happy Christmas and never let us forget

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War Memorial Commemorative Report

No apologies for devoting a considerable part of this Christmas issue of the Lowca Lowdown to the recent events surrounding the Lowca War Memorial.

On the front page the top picture shows the children from Lowca school who attended the rededication service held on Tuesday 30th October at 1pm. They had been doing a project this term covering the First World War so the head teacher Joanne Crawford felt it a fitting culmination of the project to attend, not too just attend, but four of the pupils read the two bible readings selected by Rev Paul Kerry, vicar of St Bridget's who lead the service.

However, some background before we get to the service. Hubert Donnan and David Gorman have over the recent years organised the annual Remembrance Day ceremony at Lowca, so they were instrumental in organising the parade side of the ceremony. Hubert arranged for a bugler to attend the rededication ceremony, plus a parade sergeant with two colleagues, one in the picture with the school children. Hubert and David also organised for banners to attend and thanks to the modern marvel of smartphones and Bluetooth capable speakers, music too march to. Our local PCSO Hollie Huck and one of her colleague's also were in attendance to do crowd control, traffic management really, so basking in sunshine at just before 1 pm the planned ceremony formed up.

The sergeant organised the parade to muster by the bus shelter in East Road. They were brought to attention and then to the music of the regimental march from the speaker, they paraded across the road to the memorial, the school children being part of the parade. All very impressive, Rev Paul Kerry, who had got out of his sick bed to attend, was also in the parade. There were also over 20 members of Lowca village in attendance.

Rev Paul Kerry and Hubert Donnan both did introductory addresses and then the Lowca children did the 2 bible readings with excellent composure and authority. Continued overleaf...

After the readings the names of all the fallen mentioned on the war memorial were read out by Rev Paul Kerry and for each name read out there was a small commemorative cross with a poppy and one by one, they were placed in front of the war memorial by the school children. On the completion of that part of the ceremony the Exhortation was read by Rev Paul and then the bugler sounded The Last Post and that was followed by The Silence.

After the silence Reveille was played over the speaker and then Hubert completed the rededication ceremony by saying out loud the Kohima Epitaph. All concluded in about 25 minutes and very moving.

What a difference on Remembrance Sunday for the Remembrance Parade. The rain lashed down and the wind blew up between East and West Croft with some force. Having said that 50 hardy individuals attended a splendid turn out. One of those attending was Stanley Mellon with his wife, a resident of Whitehaven who had no idea until a few weeks ago that his great uncle also named Stanley Mellon was named on the Lowca memorial. It was a moving event for him and the family are planning to go and visit his grave in the Bailleul Cemetery in northern France close to the Belgium border.

Again, for the Remembrance service Hubert and David had done all the organisation and it was very professionally. Hubert greeted everyone and explained what the mornings procedure was about. There followed the citation, then the Last Post, again through the trusty smartphone and speaker, followed by the silence. It was very poignant really that as we all stood there in the rain and wind for 2 minutes silence it gave one the opportunity to consider that we were there out of choice to remember, the soldiers in the trenches were there in similar conditions not out of choice but out of commitment and a patriotic duty to the UK and Commonwealth.

After the silence and the Reveille members representing the armed forces came forward and laid their respective wreaths, then Hubert called out the names of the 15 fallen heroes on the memorial. One

by one as the names were called, individuals at the ceremony came forward and placed wooden crosses to remember all those on the memorial. Stanley Mellon placed a cross for his great uncle.

You may have noticed that the memorial now has a memorial bench, it is pictured on the front page, this was presented by David Gorman who for the past few months had been raising funds from generous donations by Lowca residents via collecting boxes and a quiz night.

Prior to the presentation, still in pouring rain David told all present about the history of the poem "*In Flanders Fields*" written by a Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, who had watched a friend die in battle and had buried him in the dark. The next morning as he looked out over the rows of buried soldiers there were poppies growing amongst the graves so he wrote his now famous poem and its immediate popularity, it was published in December 1915, became a major contributory factor in the poppy becoming the symbol of Remembrance across Europe and north America. David then read the poem with passion that ensured all present understood why they were standing there in pouring rain to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1.

The seat was officially unveiled and then the proceedings concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

A very big thank you to everyone who has over the past few years helped to bring the war memorial to the standard that it now is. A focal point for the residents of Lowca to be proud of. At the November Lowca parish council meeting it was confirmed that the recent additional wall at the memorial cost £264.71, which was made up of £230.31 for the postcrete and 12 gravel boards, a further £9.40 for the poppy screen and £15 for the 5 ceramic poppies. That came to £254.71 and the parish council granted an additional £10 to cover the cost of the petrol for the running about to collect and deliver the materials, plus for the petrol for generator to run the power wash to clean the memorial. Again, thanks to all who have contributed over time.

The Bells, the Bells!!!!

St Bridget's of Moresby.

Monday 26th November was a very important date in the history of St Bridget's Church, it marked the dedication of their new church bells, called respectively from smallest to largest, Bridget, Isabella, Michael, Elenora, Edwin, William, Hannah and last but the biggest, the tenor bell John. He weighs in at 5cwt 11lbs, (will the elder amongst readers explain what cwt means to younger readers). He is named John because with the closure of St John's church at Cleator Moor, they kindly donated funds equivalent to the cost of their bells and their tenor bell was named John. He however weighed 21cwt, or 1ton 1 cwt.

The service on Monday evening was conducted by Rev Paul Kerry from St Bridget's with a humorous and informative address by the Bishop of Carlisle. He pointed out that in his 16½ years as Bishop this was only the third such service, he had attended to dedicate new bells.

The service contained 8 individual accounts about each of the bells, headstock inscriptions and who they were dedicated to. After each account the individual bell was rung. After the first account for Bridget the congregation was told she would ring out across the parish. It was evident that the congregation were struggling to hear the bell and when Bridget's toll finished, Anne Denwood who had read the account, noticing the straining ears of those present, set the perfect tone for the remainder of the evening by announcing, "remember she is our smallest bell." An audible chuckle could be heard.

The evening was a great success and after the service there were an excellent selection of cakes and sandwiches to go with the tea on offer. Well done to all at St Bridget's.

Want to become a bell ringer?

Bells need campanologists to make them ring out and there is a need at St Bridget's for additional ringers to join the team, all age ranges, full training given and add that to your personal CV. Interested, then contact anyone connected to the church.

St Bridget's Christmas Services

Carols by Candlelight - Sunday Dec 16th at 6pm

Christingle Service - Monday Dec 24th, 3:30pm

Midnight Communion - Monday Dec 24th at 11:30pm

Christmas Day - Tuesday Dec 25th 10am

Update on recent parish council actions

Lowca Holiday Park, the holiday park which was given planning approval way back in 2006 and the developers having put in the entrance road just past the school and Micklam Cottages, that entrance work confirmed pre-commencement conditions have been discharged and implemented the planning permission and that it therefore was a live application. The new application was to vary the type and styles of units on the site. The village noticeboard in East Rd has a full copy of Lowca's submission on behalf of residents. The applicant wants to vary the application to cover any vehicle legally described as a "caravan." Lowca has submitted that the applicant must be more specific about style and types for each of the 4 phases as they progress.

A595 Lowca embankment, a Highway's England representative attended the recent Howgate Partnership meeting to explain the present position about A595 Lowca embankment and that there was again a new consultation being done. At the November Lowca PC meeting Cllr Martin Barbour confirmed that the embankment as it is, has numerous points along it that are being checked frequently to ensure there is no movement.

Finally, a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year



Hubert Donnan, in pouring rain stands to attention on Remembrance Day.



David Gorman in his wheelchair with just some of those who attended Lowca Remembrance Day Nov 2018.
Photo taken during the silence.