

LOWCA

LOWDOWN

December 2017

"Lest we forget"



Photo courtesy Brian Ennis

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LOWCA PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mercia J Oliver, 6 Micklam Cottages, Lowca, CA28 6QR.
Mobile 07767141248 email lowcachairman@gmail.com

John Crawford, 2 Solway Road, Lowca, CA28 6QB
Home 01946 694343 mobile 07796905193

Tom Milligan, 1-2 Micklam Cottages, Lowca, CA28 6QR
Mobile 07956787089 email thomas.lowca@gmail.com

Hugh Thinnesen, Seabreeze, Lowca, CA28 6PZ
Mobile 07825155008 seabreezeht@btinternet.com

Ann Oliver, Glen lea Guest House, Stamford Hill, Lowca
CA28 6PS. Home 01946 693873, mobile 07596704881

Dee Butterworth, 35 Meadow View, Lowca, CA28 6QD
Home 01946 63665 email butterworthdee@gmail.com

Paul Todd, 24 Solway Road, Lowca, CA28 6QB
Mobile 07881644477 email paultodd@btinternet.com

Parish Clerk, Mike Milner, 54 Wentworth Park, Stainburn, Workington
CA14 1XP,
Home 01900 66040. email lowcaparishclerk@gmail.com

Cumbria County Councillor

Martin Barbour, email martin.barbour@cumbria.gov.uk
Mobile 07795207894

Copeland Borough Councillors

Gillian Troughton, email gillian.troughton@cumbria.gov.uk
Mobile 07718185077

John Bowman email john.bowman@copeland.gov.uk
Mobile 07762622911

Jackie Bowman, email jackie.bowman@copeland.gov.uk
Mobile 07730459905



Lowca Parish Council. Our Facebook page

Website. www.lowcapc.org.uk

EMERGENCY PLAN

With this edition of the Lowca Lowdown Magazine we are delivering a copy of the leaflet 'Household Emergency Plan', prepared by ACTION with Communities in Cumbria. Its aim is to encourage all of us to be better prepared in the event of an emergency. If we plan in advance and discuss as a family or household what has to be done we can cope better in an emergency.

The leaflet suggests practical actions you can take at home, including what to put in an emergency 'grab bag', how to stay informed and responding to an incident. It is for you to consider how to keep yourself safe in an emergency.

As a community we also need to think ahead and plan for emergencies. The Parish Council has been getting advice about how our community can be prepared. We have decided that one way is to have a group of volunteers who would be able to respond in an emergency. The group would have a leader/coordinator and helpers.

We need to be prepared for an emergency, such as a major incident or fire, when residents may need to be evacuated from their homes. Our plan would be to have a place of safety in Lowca, for example, it could be the Village Hall, or the rugby club. If households had to be evacuated the emergency services would ask for a place of safety to be opened and they would contact the leader/coordinator who would make the necessary arrangements. The leader/coordinator would then inform the other volunteers who would come and provide refreshments and support.

This group would also meet to consider the types of emergencies that may arise and how we can prepare for them.

We need volunteers to make such plans work. Would you be prepared to be part of a group who would be willing to help in the event of an emergency?

Please contact any of the councillors or the Parish Clerk if you are interested in being part of this group. Contact details are on page 2.

The Parton and Lowca footbridge over the Lowca Beck

Both Parton and Lowca Parish Councils received notification about the recent missing plate at the Parton end of the foot bridge a few months ago. In the past the procedure was to just contact the local Cumbria Pathways Ranger and then Cumbria County Council with a financial contribution from Natural England just dealt with the matter.

However, the urgent footbridge repair was reported back in late summer but only completed in October because Cumbria County Council no longer have direct pathway funding from Natural England, or the Northern National Trails as the body we have to deal with are now called. Parton and Lowca parish councils agreed to split the cost of the repair between themselves, £384, to make the bridge safe for use for locals as well as visitors to the coastal route who pass through on the coastal footpath.

At Lowca we are now engaged, on behalf of both parish councils with the task of trying to recover 75% of the cost from Northern National Trails. I quote from the latest correspondence on the matter...

It is unusual for Natural England to offer grants individually for works of this nature as with all existing National Trails it is the Access Authority (ie. Cumbria CC) who manage the local delivery, therefore there is no straight forward mechanism for paying for this work, nor are we under Audit rules allowed to pay for works retrospectively. While we are grateful that the Parish Council has taken on the local responsibility for this work, we were never approached directly by you to arrange this commitment.

If you ever wondered what a parish clerk does apart from attend meetings? Chris Shaw and I would say plenty of unravelling of red tape. Please if you see any potential problems with the bridge let us know immediately as neither parish has a bank balance deep enough to maintain this section of the England Coastal Pathway.

You can email the police

At parish council meetings when it gets to the regular agenda item "Police Report" one can guarantee that contacting the police is probably the number one complaint along with the inadequacy of the Cumbria Police website. The website crime map and reporting of recorded crime is usually 10 or 12 weeks in arrears. On that website problem one does defend the police slightly as the officers do compile logs on a regular basis, but it is an outside agency that updates the websites.

So how should we contact the police?

We should all know that to report a crime in progress you dial 999 or in an emergency the same number. For general enquiries or to report a crime that has happened and you want that all-important crime number for insurance purposes, then 101 is the number to ring. So often we hear that people lose the will to live if they attempt that task, you dial 101 select option 1 and generally WAIT, perhaps even wait some more.

You may not have been aware of the fact that you can actually email the police for non-urgent matters. In Cumbria that email address is 101@cumbria.police.uk and this email service is to enable the public to report non-emergency matters, but please remember to include your full name, your date of birth, your home address, with postcode, and contact phone numbers for home, work and your mobile.

In this day and age, the majority of us shop online, buy holidays online, bank online, even renew our prescriptions online. Therefore, why should we not use the same communication tool to do our non-emergency policing online? We used to chat to the village bobby, tell him snippets of information, intelligence, which they could accumulate and investigate. Emails to 101 will be read by a human being not a machine, treat it as you did that old fashion street corner, or shop doorway chat. Help build up a picture of what is going on in the area and let the police spot the similarities and act accordingly. Information is a two-way street and if we supply that by email, perhaps the next time you see a bobby driving a van they may sorting something you have reported.

LOWCA VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AGM

On 29th November the Lowca Village Hall Management Committee held their 2017 AGM meeting. There were issues raised about who could attend the AGM meeting, who could nominate individuals to serve on the committee and who was permitted to vote for the officers of the committee.

The meeting was suspended to allow the acting secretary to clarify all the points that were raised. These details are currently being finalised and once all the points questioned are clarified a date for the resumption of the AGM will be displayed in the village noticeboard on East Road and on the noticeboard in the entrance to the social club within the village hall building.

All Lowca residents aged 18 and over are eligible to attend the meeting, the clarification points raised about nominations for Trustee Management Committee nominations will be displayed alongside the notice advising of the meeting date, which will probably be Tuesday 16th or Thursday 18th January.

Alongside the notice will be displayed a copy of the Trustees Roles Responsibility and also a copy of the individual Management Trustee Declaration which must be signed as soon as individual committee members have been elected at the AGM before the meeting can continue with its business. There are 2 sets of trustees. The Holding Trustees who are the parish council, who have no say in the running of the village hall, the management committee is not a sub-committee of the parish council. The Charity or Managing Trustees are responsible for the day to day running of the building, what goes on within it and ensuring the legality of those past-time or leisure activities.

The management committee is made up of 4 representatives from the parish council, 2 from CISWO the miners organisation and then 4 more elected representatives from the organisations who regularly use the hall. This constitution of the management committee is defined in the Constitution of the Charity Commissioners Scheme for the original Miner's Institute and Recreation Ground, dated 31st December 1929 and sealed 11th Feb' 1976.

Lowca school class reports



Reception have been measuring autumn leaves on their own branch and will check every month to see how their branch changes through the seasons. They have also made their own rain-sticks to link in with their music work too. Year 1 and 2 have been working in partners to identify cloud types and been measuring the wind strength. These activities are great to promote observation skills and cover the Science area of the National Curriculum requiring children to observe, record and

understand Seasonal changes.

Bus Shelter, nearly there!

The long-awaited bus shelter has materialised in East Road. It currently is the Mediterranean model, full flow ventilation, but by the time this Lowca Lowdown drops on your doorstep it should have been glazed. To all those who have been involved in its delivery, construction and installation a very big thank you. To Cllr Gillian Troughton who was responsible for the majority of the funding whilst she was a Cumbria County Councillor, thank you and we will get a photo of you cutting some tape.

Remembrance Day Celebration

Once again Lowca residents and service organisations turned out in force to remember the fallen residents of the village. The school children went down on the Friday and in sunshine on Sunday the main remembrance ceremony took place. Thanks to Brian Ennis who supplied a selection of photos for the front-page picture.

"Lest we forget "



The school would like to thank the parish council who generously provided us with our poppy wreath. We visited the war memorial to take time to remember those who have made sacrifices for our freedom and to say a prayer for peace.

You may have noticed that this year's Remembrance Day Wreaths are now proudly displayed around the perimeter fencing, and look very spectacular and confirm that Lowca is proud of its fallen heroes. That display is due to the wheelchair bound former soldier David Gorman. Your parish council chair Mercia Oliver took responsibility for the wreaths laid last year and since Remembrance Day has recycled them into two rather spectacular looking festive Remembrance wreaths. It is not uncommon to see such wreaths laid at numerous war memorials across the UK, and they are being passed on to Hubert Donnan to place them on the Lowca Memorial.