

LOWCA

LOWDOWN

December 2015



all Remembrance photos courtesy of Brian Ennis

William Strickland & Hubert Donnan on Remembrance Day

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As you will read on page 6 although your parish council has 2 new councillors it has also lost another 2. At the December meeting the council will elect a new chairman. Therefore again Lowca parish council has 2 vacancies and will be seeking to co-opt 2 new councillors.

Could that be you? For more details of what you could, on a voluntary basis, contribute to the community of Lowca please contact one of the councilors above or contact the clerk.

New Face at St Bridget's

St Bridget's Church has gained a new vicar, and as this is being written before his "Licensing service" taking place on Saturday 5th December at 4pm, now reading this Reverend Paul Kerry will be official licensed. Sounds like something to do with a pub, but that expression does allow a reference to The Three Shires at Little Langdale, which is situated where Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire used to meet. The new vicar's wife Gabby hails from Lancashire so she has not strayed too far from home, unlike Paul, which he prefers to be called, but will respond to vicar, as he is from Berkshire which is best known for its Royal home, Windsor Castle, and only a short trip from France, with a big step.

Prior to moving to St Bridget's Paul and his family had been based at Houghton near Carlisle and his three children are Joseph 5, Lydia 4 and Benjamin 1. Below are the Christmas services for St Bridget's and St Mark's and Paul has said that the best service for families with small children will be the service on Christmas Eve at 4pm, "Christingle." The general carol service will be on Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm and by candlelight. However he will be delighted to extend an invitation to all Lowca residents at any service.

CHRISTAMAS SERVICE TIMES

Sunday 20th 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight. St Bridget's

Thursday 24th 4pm Christingle. St Bridget's

Christmas Day 9.30am Christmas Day Service. St Mark's

Christmas Day 10.45am All age service & Holy Communion at St Bridget's

Contact Paul on 0194666168, email paulkerrywork@gmail.com

<https://m.facebook.com/stbridgetschurchmoresby>

<http://stbridgetschurchmoresby.btck.co.uk>

Lowca School Autumn Report, Jo Campbell Lowca Head

Here at the school we have had a busy Autumn term. We'd like to share some of our highlights with you. The Juniors enjoyed working with the Water Education Project looking at their Science Curriculum and the world of work, linked to water. Linking art and science, they have also been experimenting with dyes looking for permanent and reversible changes in materials.



Thank you Mr Smye for putting up our fire assembly sign and installing new lights. Also thanks to Mr Saki for his offer to help prune the garden's willow. If you have any skills or talents you'd like to give to the school it would be very much appreciated. Saving money on repairs like this really helps us keep our adult to pupil ratios at the same level as private education – but for free!

A thank you also to Jack, Harry and Ben's Daddy for drilling and putting the flowers up on our "front garden" mural. Also a big thank you to Dexter's Daddy and Mummy for drilling and putting up the beautiful "safety" art work up on the bottom yard.

Well done to the older Key Stage 2 children for their "journey" to understanding long division. They have picked it up perfectly and please ask them about if you know them.



Class 1 didn't really want to let off our painted lady butterflies. However on Tuesday the children all had a turn to let a 'lady' fly away to freedom.

KS2 children have been to visit the Fab Lab at Cockermouth. They have been programming a robot for rounding up sheep! In small groups they had to build the 'sheep rounder' – without instructions! They then took it in turns using the remote control to guide it to round up the small wooden sheep and push them into the paddock. They have all done very well and thoroughly enjoyed it!



Class 3 have produced some stupendous art work inspired by example of Nigerian art. If you get the chance, please have a look at them in the 'gallery', in our hall.

We were all very impressed by the pupils' imaginative fund raising ideas for other children less fortunate than them. We raised £83:70 and had good fun.



PARISH COUNCIL CHANGES

Just like buses you can spend an age waiting for one and then they all seem to come at once. In the September Lowdown you will have read that two local residents were to be interviewed and following their interviews Violet Stafford and Hugh Thinnesen were duly co-opted as councillors at the October parish council meeting.

At that point your parish council was back up to a full complement of 9 councillors.

However, that situation was short lived because at the end of the November parish council meeting the chairman Cllr Brian Ennis advised the council that he intended to resign as chairman and tendered his written resignation as chairman and councillor, to take immediate effect. His resignation came exactly 23 years to the day since he was co-opted to Lowca Parish Council on 18th November 1992.

During his tenure as a councillor Brian has been involved with many community projects, an anti-speed chicane, the resiting of the war memorial which is still work in progress with its fencing and landscaping to be completed. The Memorial Garden, the footbridge between Parton and Lowca, not to mention his efforts in connection with your village hall, the Miners Welfare building. All the current parish councillors wish him well for the future and there will be one or two sighs of relief at local government level when they realise that they will not have to endure Brian's committed questioning at meetings. Marjorie Moore also tendered her resignation at the same time. Again all councillors thank Marjorie for her contribution over the years to Lowca and wish her well. So once again there are two parish councillor vacancies to be filled. See page 2 for a full list of your councillor contact details.

PLAY AREA AND BUS SHELTER QUESTIONNAIRES

To all of you who took the trouble to return the questionnaires circulated with the September Lowdown a big thank you.

Taking the bus shelter responses to begin with there was not one objection raised against the idea of a bus shelter in East Road. There was one comment about the shelter possibly becoming a meeting point for youngsters at night and another comment asked if more reliable buses could be made available. Those comments aside the possibility of having somewhere for young and old to shelter from the wind and a rain and so not hopefully arrive at school or work drowned rats was a common theme. Interesting fact not one individual who completed a questionnaire claimed to be in the 19-35 year age group. They must be the car owners of Lowca! Based on your feedback the parish clerk has been requested to obtain costings for a bus shelter and seek funding sources.

Next the Millennium Garden play area. The questionnaires returned covered responses from all age groups and some of the items of equipment requested were very imaginative. It certainly has provided the council with food for thought and they can now go back to the play area equipment suppliers with a more accurate indication of what equipment would be required.

Although all the questionnaires were in favour of the project it has to be reported that at the October parish council meeting there were a couple of individuals who attended and took their opportunity in the open public part of the meeting to put forward their concerns on various aspects of the project. The council acknowledged their concerns and that they would be consulted if the project became a funded commitment.

Calling all carers, that could be you, please read on

You have an elderly parent who may or may not live with you. You are an elderly couple and you look after each other, but one depends on the other a tad more. Scenarios that occur on a daily basis everywhere and no one really consider that they are A CARER; we all just get on with life.

Very commendable, but what happens if there is an emergency? Fine if you want to go out or go on holiday, you make arrangements to cover your absence. The elderly parent(s) you organise someone to keep an eye on them. Every "sensible" carer has such eventualities covered.

What is your plan though if that emergency happens and you are in no position to make arrangements to have your aged parent(s) or partner cared for? The paramedic is at your door, you need to go to hospital and they are trained to attend, scoop you up and take you to hospital. They don't know your personal circumstances as they speed towards you, and they certainly don't know your network of family or friends who step into the breach to help you out.

You are in a coma or flustered due to pain, you cannot help them, so they have to make arrangements to ensure no vulnerable person is left in the property. That will take time, time which is valuable to your well being. If any of the above could be you do you know there is a plan available, FOR FREE?

All across Cumbria the County Council have a network in place to cater for such an emergency. However to make it all work in an emergency you first of all have to make contact with Cumbria Carers, they need to know your circumstances and details. To make that initial contact they are based locally in Workington and you either ring 01900 810101 or email general@westcumbriacarers.co.uk and say you want to be considered for the Carers Emergency card scheme.

In the space available here one can only say that the scheme will put in place a system with your agreement and those who will assist you in an emergency to ensure that whoever is dependent on you will be looked after for 72 hours, at no charge. You on completion of the registration are provided with a card which has your name on and a case number, no other personal details. The emergency service though from that information, which they suggest you carry in your purse or wallet, allows them to start a chain of immediate actions which ensures your dependant is safe and secure, as will you be.

That in its simplest form are the basic nuts and bolts of what you can ensure would be in place for that emergency that hopefully never happens. Think about your personal circumstances and if in doubt ask assistance as you consider your own position.

If you have internet access then follow this link for a more detailed description of the system,

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/eLibrary/Content/Internet/327/946/39910113958.pdf>

Perhaps this does not apply to you, but do you know of someone it does? If so pass the details on, please.

The Welfare Club's Christmas Entertainment

That time of the year again, Santa Claus and of course one must not forget the religious celebrations of 25th December which is the reason for the Christmas holiday period.

Your Lowca Miners Welfare Club have a busy schedule of entertainment planned for your enjoyment over the festive period, so enabling locals not having to bother about drink and drive, they can walk. The club however is closed on Christmas Day so Lowca families and friends can plan to enjoy a day at home and club staff can do likewise.

Christmas Opening Hours as follows

Saturday 19th Dec' 6pm – midnight, with singer in the lounge

Sunday 20th Dec' 1pm – 11pm

Monday 21st Dec' CLOSED

Tuesday 22nd Dec' 7pm – 11pm

Wednesday 23rd Dec' CLOSED

Christmas Eve 24th 7pm – 11pm

Christmas Day CLOSED

Boxing Day 26th 2pm – midnight. Singer on in the lounge with members only drinks promotion on throughout the day.

Sunday 27th Dec' 1.30pm – 11pm

Monday 28th CLOSED

Tuesday 29th 7pm – 11pm

Wednesday 30th CLOSED

New Years Eve, 31st 6pm – 1am singer on in the lounge

New Years Day 1st Jan' 1pm – 6pm

Some of you may have been involved in the darts event that Marc and co organised on Saturday 21st November at the Welfare and all concerned who contributed to the charity it was supporting, Cancer Research UK, should be proud of their efforts as so far the monies collected exceed over £500 and in best charity parlance Marc advises that the money is still rolling in. Brilliant effort for such a worthy cause.

Parish Council Projects

As the end of 2015 fast approaches your parish council is turning its attention to 2016.

One major task for the December 16th parish council meeting will be to consider its budget for the financial year 2016/17 which will have to be submitted very shortly to Copeland Council.

Another project that Lowca is involved with is the North Copeland Community Team project. The Lowca parish council are considering how the coastal pathway can be improved as the general theme of the government funding is to improve the coastal areas of England. Cllr Mercia Oliver who was instrumental in getting the bridleway along the Brow officially recognised has always wanted to see the 2km that runs through Lowca made a tarmac topped pathway for wheelchair usage. The challenge is to put forward a good enough case for the project as there is a lot of coastline seeking the funding.

Would be very remiss not to wish all the residents of Lowca a

HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

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