

LOWCA

LOWDOWN

December 2016



Photo courtesy Brian Ennis

Remembrance Ceremony November 2016

Remembrance pages 3 & 4

70 years since Lowca's worst mining disaster

See pages 6 & 7

Lowca school report pages 11 & 12

Plus, other Lowca information

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Remembrance Day Ceremony

Once again, the folk of Lowca turned out to pay their respects at the Remembrance Day ceremony held around the newly fenced village war memorial monument. The fencing project is not yet fully complete, there remains further painting and brickwork, but a very big thank you to all those who were involved in the most recent stage of the project and a similar sentiment to those who tended and looked after it over the years since it was moved to its current location. A request for anonymity was made to the parish council that no names were mentioned in the Lowdown.

The front cover shows William Strickland, David Gorman and Hubert Donnan in front of the memorial and amongst the wreaths and poppies placed there were ones from the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, one from the Parish Council on behalf of all the folk of Lowca, one from the Brethren of the Midway Lodge and one placed there on Friday by Lowca school.

Joanne Crawford, head teacher at Lowca school had actually arranged for all the children from the school too attended the memorial on Friday 11th November. Joanne explained why they were there and that there would be 2 minutes' silence to remember those who had given their lives and that the children should pray for peace. It was a very moving experience watching all those youngsters praying, palms pressed hard together and eyes tight shut, an act made possible by others actions to defend peace.

More Remembrance Pictures



Photo Brian Ennis

Sorry they cannot all be in colour, but Hubert laying his wreath, Buffs in evidence plus parish council chairman Mercia Oliver and residents of Lowca.



Photo Mike Milner

Lowca teachers and children on Friday laying their wreath

A595 latest

In case you had not noticed, in mid-November Highways England emailed up dating us to the fact that their exploratory works on the A595, Gallows Lonning and Rosehill area were still "ongoing." They are doing topography reports as well as assessing the traffic volumes. They say that due to the amount of material to be assessed it will be Spring 2017 before they can hold another Drop-In. I now quote one of the paragraphs received, "Overall, we expect that it will take eighteen months to two years from now to complete the site investigations, identify options, discuss the implications with affected landowners, consult with the local community and then finalise the design. Subject to the smooth completion of the statutory and other processes, the absolute earliest that a diversion route could open would be Autumn 2019."

You are now as wise as your parish council.

East Road Bus Shelter

The bus shelter has been ordered and paid for. A haulier has been contracted to collect it from the manufacturer in London once it is manufactured which, as this is written, is due to be during the second week of December. The shelter obviously arrives in kit form and will take a while to assemble, once the ground works and footings have been put in place. At this time of the year the weather will play an important factor in its assembly. A new year's gift for the bus users of Lowca!!!

Harrington No 10 Colliery Lowca

Remembering 9th December 1946

Looking around the skyline of Lowca today it would be hard for a young Lowca child to understand how industrialised the village had been and that on the 9th December 1946, 15 colliery workers in No 10 pit were killed and one was injured.

The number 10 pit started coal production in 1910/11 and at its peak of production in the early 1930's employed about 1100 workers and produced over 5000 tons of coal per week. The coal mined was suitable for coking, gas, household, manufacturing or steam use. It was known as the "Lowca" pit and produced coal for nearly 60 years, finally being closed in 1968.

The accident on the 9th December 1946 was during a Monday morning shift and so being a Monday, traditionally recognised across the coal industry for a higher rate of absenteeism than any other day, on that fateful morning, instead of the expected 250 underground workers there were only 208.

As we look back and remember the accident perhaps we with hindsight should be thankful the event was not a week later. That following week was known in mining circles as "Bull Week" when men worked as many shifts as they possibly could to earn extra pay for their Christmas pay packet.

In 1946 the mine employed about 770 folk and it was

producing about 3000 tons of coal per week. The shift on that fateful Monday morning had started at about 5.30am and was just over 2 hours in when there was an explosion which a subsequent enquiry agreed was due to "firedamp" a build-up of gas at the coalface, but what actually caused that firedamp was never established. Was it due to faulty ventilation equipment, an electric short or a safety lamp opening unexpectedly, no conclusion was arrived at.

In the opening paragraph of this piece the observation was made that today's young children would, from the skyline, be totally unaware of the links Lowca had to the mining industry and unlike the war memorial the village possesses, which will have been a visible part of village life for 100 years on 25th April 2020, there is nothing to remind the Lowca community of those who have given their life underground.

An article in the Lowdown marking the community's recognition of 70 years since the tragedy, although maybe an appropriate reminder of the event, the parish council have discussed creating a monument to all Lowca's miners who gave their lives' in the industry. The area behind the existing war memorial, there is the same amount of ground available, would make an excellent central village point for the creation of such a memorial.

It is a project in development, if you have ideas let your parish council know, so future Lowca generations can appreciate their heritage. Lowca is more than just a name on a map close to the A595.

Lowca Welfare Club's Christmas Specials

Marc Johnston has asked the Lowdown to let you know what they have on offer at the club in the way of Christmas Specials for your entertainment.

On **Saturday 17th December** starting at 7pm there is an act called, "Zoe and the Boy."

On **New Year's Eve**, the entertainment is provided by "It's Nikki" which will start at 8pm.

On both those nights there is no entrance fee, all welcome.

On **Christmas Night**, for those of you fed up of Bond or Harry Potter movies the club will open at 7pm until midnight.

On **Boxing Day**, the club will be open from 2pm 'til LATE.

St Bridget's Church Christmas Services.

Rev' Paul Kerry from St Bridget's has provided the following Christmas service options.

St. Bridget's Church

Carols by Candlelight - Sunday Dec. 18th at 6:30pm

Family Carols - Saturday Dec. 24th at 3pm

Midnight Communion - Saturday Dec. 24th at
11:30pm

Christmas Day - Sunday Dec. 25th at 10:15am

St. Mark's Village Church, Moresby Parks

Carol service - Sunday Dec. 4th at 2:30pm

Family Carols - Friday Dec 23rd at 3pm

His theme for the season is titled: "Christmas is for hope." And he'd love to hear from people about what gives them hope this Christmas.

They can let him know by visiting the church's Facebook page "Christmas is for hope" and writing their answer on the page or by sending an email to christmasisforhope@gmail.com
Lowca residents you now have advance notification of what both your club and church can provide this Christmas.

Welfare management committee secretary

The Miners Welfare Building, the Village Hall, call it what you may, but it houses the Club and the large hall used by various organisations.

The management committee is seeking someone to become its secretary. There are usually just 3 meetings a year, the secretary would be expected to take minutes, write them up and circulate to committee members and create and circulate an agenda prior to meetings. The use of your own computer with a Word package, able to access email and write and receive letters is basic criteria plus a desire to be central to the Lowca community and importantly do all this for no financial reward.

You will not be thrown in at the deep end, but the committee do need someone who wants to help provide for the continuation of one of Lowca's most important parts of its historic fabric. Interested, then please contact Mike Milner whose details are on the inside cover of the Lowdown, for a chat and more details of the commitment required.

Lowca to Parton Costal Path Bridge

It had been brought to the attention of both Lowca Parish Council and Parton's PC that the metal footbridge which spans Lowca Beck down by the beach just below the railway line has some damage to its walkway. The matter has been taken up with the Cumbria County Council's rangers who are responsible for the coastal pathway through our area. One hopes that the repairs will be carried out as quickly as possible.



Photos Mike Milner, Mercia Oliver

Fly Tipping in Lowca

Further to the item in the last Lowdown about fly tipping Copeland Borough Council have erected signs to advise potential tippers of the financial consequences if they are caught, but local residents must play their part, report the material and if you witness anyone in the act, please just take details and advise Copeland BC and they will deal with it. Obviously, the Parton/Lowca bridge and a No Tipping sign. Photographic masterpieces!!!!

Lowca School Autumn Term report

Technology

This half term we have had wonderful sessions developing technology skills, particularly looking at fasteners, fixings, spirals, gears and springs. We have designed and made gingerbread man traps, wind buggies, paper planes, seasonal biscuits on a budget, and so much more.



Thank you also for our visit from Daniel Brooks, from "Inovia films", who came to work with the children on the work applications of their studies.

It was good to see so many familiar faces at our Harvest Festival. We would like to thank you for your very generous donations which were given to the local

foodbank.

Welcome to our new reception pupils. It is lovely to see our pupil numbers so high and to have a school that is officially full, but still small enough to give children a rich, caring education, in a family atmosphere.

Our annual adventure visit to Bassenfell Outdoor Education centre was a great success and the weather helped to make it a great experience for pupils and staff.



Trinity College Art Award

Children in Years 2-6 were presented with an Arts Award certificate in Celebration Assembly. They received certificates from Trinity College London in association with Rosehill Theatre Arts for taking part in a mask making and ballet projects last term.

