

Seasons Greetings to all residents of Lowca



Once again, the three gentlemen above, Hubert Donnan, David Gorman and William Rowley were instrumental in leading the Lowca Remembrance Day service. As you can see from the bottom picture, the service was held in bright sunshine but the wind was a cool one. The service was conducted with the now expected musical accompaniment thanks to a smart phone and a Bluetooth speaker. There were over 40 people in attendance and after the silence and the traditional military wreaths being placed at the memorial, other representatives laid wreaths, one laid by parish council chair, Mercia Oliver on behalf of the Lowca Community, another laid by Lowca school and then some small wooden memorial crosses by children present. Hubert in his address reminded all that Saturday 25th April 2020 at 3pm will be commemorate the centenary of the memorial being erected. There is to be a community celebration.



NEW COMMUNITY CLUB OPENING SEE PAGE 3



Staying with the Remembrance Day theme, the picture on the left shows the oldest pupil of Lowca school, plus the youngest one who braved torrential rain on Monday November 11th at 11am along with Hubert Donnan to mark the precise anniversary of the Armistice. It had been planned that the whole school would as usual attend the ceremony but the Head wisely decided that due to the inclement weather just allow two children to represent the school.

The quality of the photograph was dictated by the torrential rain. For the centenary celebration of the memorial next April the parish council will publish a booklet for distribution to each Lowca home completing the history of names on the memorial.

YOUR VILLAGE HALL

Lowca village hall, some call it the Miners Welfare, the building is the property of you the villagers of Lowca, held via a charitable trust. It is run by a management committee and contrary to the information put out in a social media post in September, stating it was closed due to financial problems, that was not accurate. The Lowca Social Club had run into financial difficulties and the electricity and gas had been cut off due to non-payment. The village hall management committee, under the terms of the Occupational Licence that the Lowca Social Club had signed, gave the Lowca Social Club 14 days to vacate the premises. Once vacant possession had been obtained the village hall management committee organised for the utility supplies to be reinstated.

Then that committee set about securing the future of your village hall, advertising for interested parties to use the building. As you will read elsewhere in this Lowdown, due to their endeavours a new Lowca Community Club has been organised with a new committee and that Community Club will reopen and operate the bar side of the village hall.

The new Community Club has started redecorating the old club room premises, you can see the difference a coat or two of paint makes. Now the village hall management committee is looking for volunteers from the community to help it repaint and decorate other areas of the village hall to protect the fabric of the building and encourage use of the building by other local groups. If you are able to offer your services to help with the refurbishment project then please contact the Village Hall committee secretary, 07849420183 or email lowcavillagehall@gmail.com . If you would like to book the hall for an event or a group meeting then please contact Dee Butterworth 07484740652 or again email lowcavillagehall@gmail.com

The village hall belongs to the village, it costs money to run and maintain, the village hall management committee have one regular tenant the new Community Club, who have an Occupational Licence and pay a monthly rent and contribute to the gas and electric, the building needs other users. The sad fact of life is that if the building cannot clear its running costs and building maintenance needs then the village under the terms of the charity document must sell the building and land and return all the proceedings to CISWO the miners charity. Please help the village hall management committee look after your village asset.



LOWCA VILLAGE TREE IS PLANNED

Lowca parish council have obtained a licence to display a village Christmas Tree in the area on the grass behind the bus shelter in East Road where the recycling bins were. The parish council would ask that you just admire the tree as you pass, it is not for climbing on, or hanging additional decorations on. If it proves a popular addition to the festive period, it could be repeated annually.

New Community Club to reopen Village Hall Bar Facility



The Lowca Village Hall Management Committee have negotiated an Occupational Licence with a brand new Lowca Community Club and its committee. The new Community Club committee has amongst its members, chair Gillian Strickland, treasurer Joy Lowden, secretary Natalie Rowley plus Robert, Trevor, Charlotte and Thelma Ennis as additional committee members. Other users of the hall are also on the committee and importantly the bar facility will be run by a separate team of Ben and Scott Strickland and William Rowley.

Membership for the new community club has been set at £5 per adult and £3 for OAP's. Membership application forms can be obtained from any committee member and they will also provide a copy of membership rules.

The new bar facility is due to open on Friday 13th December with singer Kerry Weir providing the entertainment. There is proposed entertainment over the Christmas period and fuller details can be found on the new Facebook page for this venue at, Lowca Community Club. The new bar's opening hours are as follows, Thursday 7pm-11pm, Friday and Saturday 7pm to Midnight, Sunday Midday until 11pm and they will be selling beers and larger from John Smiths, Tetley, Fosters and Strongbow cider plus there will be guest beers, bottled beers and of course selection of spirits. On Friday 21st December there will be race night and Saturday 28th December singer Nikki B. See Facebook page for fuller details.

Lowca residents please remember that if you support and use this new community club, you could be ensuring that it remains an alternative choice of venue for a night out, but more importantly the Community Club are paying a monthly rent to the village hall management committee plus contributing to the gas and electric used, so you are also supporting the village hall which is a the community's asset.

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PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

With the recent resignation of former councillor John Crawford, who the parish council thank for his years of service to the community of Lowca, there are now 4 vacancies on the Lowca parish council. If you are community minded and would like to get involved then why not contact the parish clerk with your contact details and a brief history of your involvement in Lowca. The parish council meets every third Wednesday of the month, except August. If you are 18 years of age and over and a Lowca resident then the parish council would be delighted to receive your email via the clerk's email address.

BURNT OUT VAN



We have included pictures of dumped mattresses, garden waste and general household clearance, but someone decided that Lowca beach would be an ideal place to abandon and burn out this van. It was reported to Copeland for removal, but we have a feeling that the sea was claiming more of it with each incoming tide and storm.

St Bridget's Church Christmas services

Sunday 22nd December, 10.45am Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd December, 6pm Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday 24th December, 3.30pm Christingle, all ages service

Wednesday 25th December, Christmas Day Holy Communion Service.

Lowca War Memorial Centenary Celebrations



Saturday 25th April 2020 at 3pm will be exactly a century since the Lowca Village Hall War Memorial was first unveiled, not in its present location but in the grounds of the old Methodist Chapel. A century ago that war memorial, delivered and erected cost Lowca the princely sum of £120/18/9. For the benefit of youngster reading that is £120.94p in today's money, that equates to about £5400 at current values. Hubert, David and William who organise the annual Remembrance Service ceremony are in the process of organising with the assistance of their various military connections a memorable celebration service and parade to mark the centenary date. Please can you make a date in your diary, it is conveniently on a Saturday. The parish council are producing another commemorative booklet about the memorial with further details of the Second World War servicemen mentioned on the memorial and some "fallen Lowca heroes" not on the memorial but remembered in other graveyards.

Japanese Knotweed.

At the last parish council meeting it was reported that there was visible evidence of Japanese Knotweed over by the old Micklam Farm. This was reported to Copeland and their Scientific Officer, Thomas Greer, who has been to investigate but could find no evidence of the plant. He advised the parish council that "It's not actually illegal to have knotweed growing on your property, but it is illegal to allow it to spread in the wild. When we come across knotweed, we alert the land owner to it and advise them to get it treated, however we generally can't take enforcement action unless the knotweed is having a 'detriment effect...on a community.' Private action can be taken in cases where knotweed is spreading from one property to another.