

# ***LOWCA***

# ***LOWDOWN***

***March 2016***



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Bus shelter for East Road page 5

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**PUBLIC DROP IN MEETING APRIL 7<sup>th</sup> AT LOWCA VILLAGE HALL BETWEEN 2pm and 6.30pm**

**Please take the time to read this and attend the above**

Many Lowca residents will over the past months noticed that part of the wall along the embankment which supports the A595 has disappeared. That prompted the engineering group Kier, at the request of Highways England, to arrive with drilling equipment and drill down in various areas along the embankment, to establish the state of the ground the current road is built on.

What has been demonstrated is that the existing embankment on which the road runs is no longer fit for purpose. There is no imminent danger of the road disappearing down the embankment towards Moresby Hall and the sea, however the problem will not go away and needs rectification. That is where Lowca residents and those from surrounding areas can have potentially a major input into the solution.

However to do that you need to consider some of the options and go along to the public drop in session that has been booked for Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup> at Lowca Village Hall between 2pm until 6.30pm.

The works will take some considerable time, depending on the solution chosen. It is residents' opportunity to try and get HE to put in place a project that perhaps can encapsulate something more than just a new embankment. Could it encompass the turning on to the A595 from Lowca? Even along too Rosehill junction? It would be an opportunity to meet the HE team, their engineers and the geologists who will have all the facts available to explain the problems and some solutions.

In a nutshell the existing embankment is not considered strong enough to take heavy plant, it would likely slip away. The drilling results confirm that drilling down and pinning with steel rods will not work as the ground below is not stable enough. Putting a Bailey Bridge style solution in situ as repairs are carried out, create concerns that vibration would cause the land to slip. So how is the traffic directed around the problem area?

If there is to be major traffic disruption and one way systems put in place, perhaps the opportunity should be used to get a major change to the road in the area. An opportunity not to be missed, so make a note in your diary, go along the to drop in, listen to the options and push your proposals. Lowca Parish Council will, but please go and air your views. Let your local councillors know, all contact details on page 2 of your Lowdown.

## **East Road proposed Bus Shelter**

It seems an eternity since Dee Butterworth of Meadow View first contacted your parish council enquiring if it would be possible for a bus shelter to be provided along East Road by the parish notice board, in the area where the recycling bins are situated. It was the end of 2014 when the project started and since then Dee has organised a petition and submitted that, which showed there were residents who wanted the bus shelter.

Your parish council then went about seeking funding and it was asked to circulate the village with a questionnaire, to confirm wider support. That was done last September with the Lowca Lowdown. Again those questionnaires returned showed overwhelming support for a bus shelter. Suppliers approached and quotations were obtained. With the election of Gillian Troughton as your Cumbria County Councillor the question was asked if she could help with some funding from her CCC Local Members Scheme Allowance. One is happy to say that Cllr Troughton has provided £2000 towards the project, so big thank you to her.

However with all these things nothing is simple. For Lowca residents' information go to the parish notice board and in there are the 3 pages of the report compiled by Cumbria Council's Bus Infrastructure Officer, Christian Moss. Hopefully with a fair wind and no problems, if not by summer, then certainly for the resumption of the school term in September, East Road should have a nice new bus shelter. As per the front cover picture.

## **St Bridget's, Easter services and football!!!**

No you probably don't expect to see church services mentioned in the same headline as football. However before you panic, there is not going to be goal posts at either end of St Bridget's aisle, or across the nave, it is a project being organised by the vicar Paul Kerry, but let's deal with the church services first.

Paul tells us that there will be a service at 10.30am in St Bridget's on Good Friday morning, 25<sup>th</sup> March. On Easter Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March the service will be at 10.45am, and Paul would love to extend a warm invitation to anyone who would like to join them during this season of hope.

Now for those of you waiting for the football, here it comes. Paul is organising a FREE football school with a couple of other local churches from March 29<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>, between 10am and 3pm for anyone, boys and girls, aged between 7 – 11 years old. It will be held at Copeland's Athletics Stadium in Overend Rd, Whitehaven, CA28 8SD.

The football school will include football skills training, matches, fun bible talks about God and much more. Anyone interested please contact Paul directly on 01946 66168 and he will get a flyer about the project to you with full details and a registration form. Right: that has put the football firmly at your feet; if you are tempted then please contact Paul. Perhaps if this is a success he could be encouraged to do something similar during the summer holidays.

# **KKS**

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## **Your Parish Councillors are...**

In the December Lowdown we advised that Brian Ennis had resigned and Marjorie Moore as well. If you study page 2 of this Lowdown you will discover that Marjorie is still a councillor. To resign a verbal statement is insufficient and Marjorie has never put her resignation in writing so remains a councillor, and her continued experience is much appreciated. Elizabeth Walker though was taken ill whilst on holiday abroad and was flown home. She has put her resignation in writing and through this Lowdown the parish council wish to thank her for the many years of sterling service she has provided to the community of Lowca. Enjoy your retirement Liz.

At the December parish council meeting Mercia Oliver was unanimously elected as chairman and Violet Stafford was elected to the position of deputy chairman. During February interviews took place for the vacancy created by Brian Ennis's resignation and local resident Dee Butterworth was the successful applicant.

Since being officially co-opted at the February meeting, Dee and her other two new councillor colleagues Violet Stafford and Hugh Thinnesen have all attended a Good Councillors training course. Such courses provide the councillors with an insight as to what can be achieved at this level of local government and what is expected of them in the way they carry out their councillor duties. There is certainly more to the job than turning up for a monthly matter.



Your chairman Mercia Oliver has also taken advantage of a "Chairman's" training course and as she does not have a booming deep voice, may be looking for a gavel to use at parish council meetings.

Therefore with Elizabeth's resignation that leaves Lowca with a vacancy for another councillor. The council now has three new faces with fresh enthusiasm for getting projects undertaken. Dee Butterworth started off in 2014 wanting a bus shelter, she now finds herself co-opted on to the council. Her involvement with the bus shelter whetted her appetite for doing something more for Lowca. Violet Stafford and Hugh Thinnesen have found their feet and voice and it looks like our new chairman is going to find a gavel.

Could you be part of the Lowca team? There is still the war memorial project to resolve, the Millennium Garden play area is ongoing and there is the potential for Lowca to have an important say in major road works along the A595. That is without starting other local community projects and there is the major North Copeland Community Coastal Team project, see page 10, which would be a tremendous boost for Lowca and the local coastline.

The vacancy will be officially displayed in the parish notice board over Easter, talk to one of the councillors on page 2 or contact the clerk, details same page. Come and make a serious difference. It's unpaid but rewarding and certainly not boring.

## **LOWCA Miners Welfare Club Easter Entertainment**

Based on the time this is being written and when you will probably receive it on your doorstep I think advising you about the club having RUE and the Rockets, live on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March at £7 a ticket, which includes a finger buffet maybe too late for you. However you should be aware that on Easter Saturday evening, 26<sup>th</sup> March, live in the lounge is YA SOUL. Go along and enjoy them for free as you enjoy your drink.

## **North Copeland Community Coastline Team**

Lowca as part of the above team with Parton, St Bees, Whitehaven and Lowside Quarter parish councils submitted its plan, one of 118 submitted from English coastal communities. If anyone would like a pdf copy of the plan then please email Lowca's clerk, details on page 2, and ask for a copy and you will get the professionally produced 30 page document. The funding for the projects will not become available until April 2017, but in anticipation of the funding bid for the area being successful the ground work is going ahead to create a specific body on behalf of the team to handle funding and overseeing the projects. A draft job specification has also been drawn up for A Coastal Community Officer. The plan lays out practical steps including **connecting coastal communities, developing the visitor economy and encouraging business and enterprise**, which will help make North Copeland Coast a destination to live and work in for years to come. We will keep you updated.

## **Was our schooling ever this entertaining?**

Lowca School plays a big part in the development of the future of the village and this is what they have been doing recently, with words and pictures thanks to Joanne Crawford the Head.

This Term we have been studying the topic of Vikings. We use topics as a vehicle for enriching the pupil's learning in Maths, English, Science, Art, Music and so on. Teaching pupils how to write a play script is brought to life as the children act out stories and then write them in the correct format before performing them in costumes and recording them with i-pad movie maker. In this way children enjoy their learning more and remember their experiences. We also like to make good use of local resources such as the Beacon Museum and Tullie house. We enjoyed our trips to these museums and learned so much. The Beacon staff also visited the school, with a range of exhibits which captured all our imaginations.

Everyone was in the hall sequencing ancient tools, helmets, arrows, clothing and even corn and suggesting how and why certain materials were used. Our younger class also built a Viking war ship outside. Using wooden blocks and pipes and a variety of items 'raided' from the grounds they constructed the outline and built a mast then used sticks and twigs for the oars. They pretended to be starving and so raided the garden for food. They hunted for the items they needed for everyday survival which had been hidden outside, just like the Vikings did. We sorted the foods into groups-protein, vitamins, fibre and energy to learn about a healthy balanced diet which again is learning about one subject, Science, but through an exciting central topic.

The children studied the geographical features of an island and tidal information. They chose the correct calculations to work out how many invaders they would have and worked in teams to discover the best way to invade Lindisfarne and avoid being captured by the soldiers that the monks had employed. There were some very ingenious ideas and strategies all of which helps build problem solving skills.



The children certainly look as they are really enjoying their adventures into Viking life.



Please Miss Crawford he is bigger than me and stronger. His sword is longer. I promise not to speak in class again unless spoken too. (Remember when it used to be a flying board rubber?)



Next we are learning about "Our World" and "Magnets" which will have a geography and Science focus. The children love coming to school and are excited about learning and we are very proud of their achievements.