

# ***LOWCA***

# ***LOWDOWN***

**March/April 2017**



Lowca Memorial for Miners Page 3

Lowca School Parking Problems Page 4

Marathon Run Page 6

The Parish Precept Page 8

St Bridget's Easter Services Page 10

Dog Fouling Page 11

**WE ARE ON FACEBOOK SEE PAGE 2**

## LOWCA PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mercia J Oliver, 6 Micklam Cottages, Lowca, CA28 6QR.  
Mobile 07767141248 email [merciajaneoliver@gmail.com](mailto:merciajaneoliver@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](mailto:thomas.lowca@gmail.com)

Hugh Thinnesen, Seabreeze, Lowca, CA28 6PZ  
Mobile 07825155008 [seabreezeht@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:butterworthdee@gmail.com)

Paul Todd, 24 Solway Road, Lowca, CA28 6QB  
Home 01946 690531 email [paultodd@btinternet.com](mailto:paultodd@btinternet.com)

Parish Clerk, Mike Milner, 54 Wentworth Park, Stainburn,  
Workington CA14 1XP,  
Home 01900 66040. email [lowcaparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:lowcaparishclerk@gmail.com)

Cumbria County Councillor and Copeland Borough Councillor

Gillian Troughton, email [gillian.troughton@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:gillian.troughton@cumbria.gov.uk)  
Mobile 07718185077

Copeland Borough Councillors

John Bowman email [john.bowman@copeland.gov.uk](mailto:john.bowman@copeland.gov.uk)  
Mobile 07762622911

Jackie Bowman, email [jackie.bowman@copeland.gov.uk](mailto:jackie.bowman@copeland.gov.uk)  
Mobile 07730459905



Lowca Parish Council. Our Facebook page

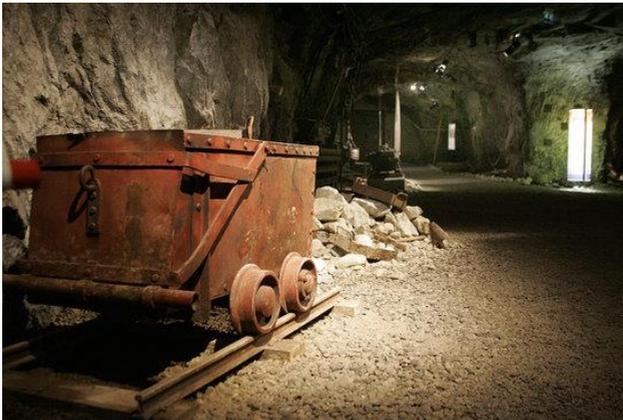
Website. [www.lowcapc.org.uk](http://www.lowcapc.org.uk)

## Lowca Memorial to Pit No 10

With the Lowca war memorial now fenced and once the fine weather returns the finishing touches to the area will be completed. The parish council want to put on the ground behind the existing war memorial a suitable memorial for Lowca's miners who lost their lives in the pits and especially No 10 pit which suffered such a tragic loss of life involving 15 workers on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 1946.

The most popular idea for part of the memorial is an old mine "tub." So just on the off chance, the parish council wonders if any Lowca resident happens to have one lying around that they would kindly donate to the cause? A couple of short lengths of rail track for it to stand on would be handy as well.

If any resident has any ideas for a suitable inscription or a contribution to part of an inscription that too would be most welcome. You can either contact the clerk whose details are on page 2 or if you are an avid Facebook user the parish council now has its own Facebook page, Lowca Parish Council.



## **Lowca School Parking Problems**

Lowca school is no different to any other school, parents drop their children off using motor vehicles. The result is chaos, parking problems and one is sorry to have to report, parents rushing to drop of their charges tend to forget some of the basic safety factors, putting them and their charges at risk.

Your parish council get the topic raised most months and so have decided to tackle this by mentioning it in the Lowdown and point out where the car drivers are at fault.

Our local PCSO Hollie Dennis went into the school on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March and spoke to all the pupils. If you are a parent of one of the pupils you will have seen the letter that each pupil brought home in their school bags.

Cumbria Highways are going to repaint all the fading and faded double yellow lines outside the school. Once that is done "enforcement officers" will patrol the area and ultimately parents who park on the yellow lines will start receiving fines. At the parish council meeting on Wednesday Hollie attended to advise what she had said and done with the pupils. As adults, we ought to be setting a good example, so the hope is children pester power will make parents realise that the children have been told what is right and wrong so please if they say, "you should not be doing this" then realise they are probably right when it comes to school parking.

There are various areas that create the most problems. Number one is the turning just before the school, parents pulling in there to drop children off and then having to back out on to the main road.

The head teacher has put a large cone there to stop that practice and parents drive past it, ignoring the cone. It is a major hazard to back out of that area, forgetting the problem of blocking the traffic flow, a small child could be in the driver's blind spot and get knocked over.

Down from the school on the left-hand side are a row of five cottages, double yellow lined area, both sides of the road, but parents park there and it is double yellow lined because it is on a bend. It is a traffic hazard. Two parish councillors live in properties at Micklam Cottages before the school and the other month one of them pulled off to go to work drove past the school and a parent pulled up on that blind bend just swung the offside door wide open, could not see the councillor's car. Luckily nothing coming up the road so councillor was able to swing across the road, but what if a child had leapt out and the car could not have swerved?

Please, on behalf of the parish council, Joanne Crawford and all her staff plus the police, could we ask all parents be more considerate about where they park, while dropping their children off. If possible walk your children to school, if you have to drive, leave earlier to allow for parking further from the school, but safely, still getting the children there on time. Once the yellow lines have been repainted and are clearly visible, please don't be surprised when parking fines are issued.

It is to be hoped that this article, plus the letter parents will have received from the police via the school, will make the car drivers on the school run help make the area around Lowca school a safe traffic area.

## **Would you run a marathon for charity?**

### **Councillor Paul Todd is prepared to, AGAIN!!**

Before the last council meeting your local Lowca parish councillor Paul Todd was telling us that he was going to take part in the London marathon this coming April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Therefore, with the council's full agreement I report on Paul's plans for this year, who he is raising money for, and some of his past charity runs.

His London Marathon run is being done in support of PhabKids! In case you have never heard of the charity it began in 1957, and for nearly 60 years the charity has encouraged and supported children and adults with and without disabilities to **make more of life together**. It has a residential facility outside Kendal and it regularly uses the Whinlatter Pass adventure facility. However, as Paul has said he chose PhabKids! "Because, they do amazing work across the country not just in Cumbria, they rebuild the confidence in children from different back grounds and disabilities."

So, what made Paul want to run marathons? "I first started running due to having put weight on and running half marathons and full marathons was an incentive to keep running which I really enjoy," was his reply. He went on to say that have done 4 marathons already which he had all run for charity, his personal best time at the moment is 3 hours 20 minutes. When we asked him what his time target was this time he replied "3hr 10min." Well good luck to him on that part of the challenge. Therefore, how can the residents of Lowca support him with a donation?

The first thing you ought to know is that by choosing to run for his chosen charity, as soon as he gets to the start and takes that first step he has to guarantee the charity a sum of £1650. If he does not make that money in sponsorship, he has to dig deep into his own pocket.

To save him having to use his own money there are two ways you can donate to help him on his way and all those kids he wants to help. Firstly, you can donate directly to his fundraising page - <https://www.justgiving.com/Paul-Todd01>. Just Giving take the donation and credit it directly to Paul's PhabKids! Account. If you are a UK tax payer when you go that route Just Giving will also apply to gift aid for a 20% contribution from the inland revenue, but one has to point out that that gift aid contribution, although welcomed by the charity does not count towards Paul's £1650 total.

Alternatively, you can pick up your mobile phone text PJTT50 and your donation amount to 70070, remembering you must be 16 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Paul's various charity runs have in the past raised in excess of £6000.

If you don't know Paul have a look at the back page of the Lowdown and there you will see a happy smiling picture of him. Not sure what he will look like after his London run, but we all wish him the best of luck and in the June edition of the Lowdown we reveal if he beat his previous best time and did manage to knock 10 minutes off that time, plus tell you how much he finally raised.

## **Parish Council Precept, where it goes.**

Lowca residents will have had their latest council tax bills dropping through their letter boxes over the past few weeks. Lowca parish council agreed that in this edition of the Lowca Lowdown in response to the government wanting all parish councils to be transparent in their dealings with public, its legal obligation to have a website on which anyone could check council minutes and annual accounts, here is a guide to how Lowca Parish Council spends the precept it budgets for, a sum NOT capped by government legislation so the council could ask for whatever figure they liked, but prudence prevails to keep charges down.

For 2016/17 we asked for £7k and received an additional grant of £544.19, making a total income of £7544.19. For 2017/18 we knew no grants were to be made so we increased the precept request to £7500, to achieve an income equal to last year. On paper, it looks like a 7% increase, but in reality, it is £44.19 less than last year.

To put the cost of the precept into figures we hope you will understand, a band A Lowca council tax payer last year will have contributed £22.64 annually to our precept or 44p a week. A band D council tax payer, the national average band, last year would have contributed £33.96 for the year or 65p per week. A band G payer would have been £56.60 or £1.08 per week, but those contributors are not many, if any, in Lowca.

Assuming that everyone is band D, which they are not, what do they get for that 65p a week. By legislation you have to have a parish clerk and for 2016/17 he has cost you £2187, or £42 a week. Which is 20 hours approx. a month, so 31% of your precept goes on legally required administration.

Your council is legally obliged to have insurance, that is £710 or 10% of its income. This last year, although the NuGen apprentices supplied the war memorial fencing, the council had a further cost of galvanising that and buying the support post, totalling £1009, or 14% of income. We bought a laptop and printer for the clerk to comply with government legislation with regard to website requirements, accounts and writing and recording agendas and minutes, plus email correspondence. That cost though was all met by a grant the clerk applied for and likewise the bus stop soon to arrive at East Road, was again paid for by a grant obtained by the council. Those grant applications jointly saved the Lowca council tax payers a total of £2500.

The local grass cutting costs £642 or 9% of income, this Lowca Lowdown costs £744, 11% of the income or 46p for each copy delivered 4 times a year. There are incidentals of course, printer ink £107 for the year of 1.5% of income. Postage £80, or 1%. That roughly accounts for £5500 of the income, there are other costs and we have to have a surplus, for "just in case" items, because a parish council cannot have an overdraft or credit card. We get grant requests, one in 2015/16 was £500 towards safety matting for the play school. Playground equipment needs maintenance, there are numerous items that can unexpectedly require payment, just like any household budget.

These figures hopefully have given you some insight into the parish council expenditure. All parish councils have their legal obligations to serve their communities and we hope this information has helped you realise parish councils don't just sit and talk, they have responsibilities which they do take very seriously.

## **Easter at St Bridget's**

The Rev Paul Kerry has advised that the Easter Church services at St Bridget's are as follows.

Good Friday Communion (April 14th), St. Bridget's at 10:30am

Easter Sunday All Age Celebration (April 16th), St. Bridget's at 10:45am

One is certain that Paul would be delighted to see as many of you as possible.

## **Dog Mess**

More often than not at parish council meetings one or more parish councillor has to report about complaints about dog mess. This leaves the clerk with a report to make to Copeland, and it can be the best part of 4 weeks since the problem occurred. Copeland then also ask for a name, address of complainant and does he know who the dog owners is, or alternatively can he provide a description of the dog.

If he cannot describe the dog the next question is, "is it a regular occurrence and a rough time." To cut down on the time delay of you reporting the problem and your parish council acting, are residents aware that they can contact Copeland directly on 01946 598300 or email them on [info@copeland.gov.uk](mailto:info@copeland.gov.uk)

See the next page for what actions they will take.

This is what Copeland's website says to do and their actions.

*Copeland has its share of irresponsible dog owners who fail to clean up after their dogs have fouled. This is a major issue for people. If this is a regular occurrence, we need your help so that we can utilise our time to achieve the best results for all. Therefore, if you can please tell us the location, likely times, which way they have come and a brief description of the owner and dog.*

*We have adopted the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 and its associated bylaws which include one for dog fouling; the Fouling of Land by Dogs Order 2007. The Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act make it an offence for a person in charge of a dog at the time it fouls not to clean up its faeces in a public place.*

*Our enforcement officers have a range of powers relating to dog fouling offences and undertake regular enforcement activity to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's) to offenders. Under the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 authorised officers can issue fixed penalty fines of £80, and/or take action in a Magistrates Court to anyone failing to clean after their dog fouls.*

*Failure to pay a fixed penalty will result in action being taken for the offence in the Magistrates' Court with a maximum fine of £1,000 plus costs.*

Please if possible report the matter directly to Copeland, but do tell your local parish councillor and then the clerk can follow up with Copeland, to discover what action is or has been taken.



Paul Todd.

See page 6 which explains why your local parish councillor Paul Todd is smiling at you from the back page of this edition of the Lowca Lowdown. Be interesting to get a photo of Paul at the completion of his April 23<sup>rd</sup> run. Knowing Paul, he will still be grinning away.