

# ***LOWCA***

# ***LOWDOWN***

***September 2015***



See Page 9 for AA Box location and details of a  
Cumbrian King

Pages 10 & 11 for inserted questionnaire details

## BOOKING LOWCA VILLAGE HALL AND LICENSED BAR

The problem with a black and white newsletter it does not allow for using nice colour photos to show off the surroundings that Lowca has to offer in way of the village hall with its licensed bar. The large hall is suitable for party's, wedding receptions, clubs or many other functions. The licensed bar can be incorporated in your hire arrangements, or you can use the bar as a place to meet friends for a chat, drink and watch Sky Sports.

To book the hall or enquire about its availability and hire charges, which are not expensive,

contact Marjorie Moore on 07810393472

or email [lowcavillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:lowcavillagehall@gmail.com)

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## PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE NOW LAUNCHED

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

Legislation about transparency of government at local and national levels has meant that all councils now have to make their agendas, minutes and annual accounts plus audit reports available for inspection online, not just the good old fashioned parish notice board.

Lowca could have taken the easy solution and use some approved third party website which would have meant villagers could have viewed the material mixed in with numerous other councils material. From an administrative point of view that would have been the easy route, just send the material to others to upload and pay a monthly fee. However your parish council thought that creating its own website which could provide the window for all its material legally required, but more importantly provide to the world a window to view Lowca and promote its history and social events plus its school and clubs, was an opportunity not to be missed.

Therefore if you put [www.lowcapc.org.uk](http://www.lowcapc.org.uk) into your address bar and press enter you will now find Lowca village's own place in the ether. Perhaps we ought to consider a Facebook page??? A bus shelter, a refurbished playground, what next? The moon on a stick!!!

## LOWCA'S FLORA & FAUNA HERITAGE

Elsewhere in this Lowdown you can read all about Mercia Oliver's work to get the bridleway clearly defined on the appropriate map to safe guard some of your Lowca Heritage. However do you realise just how much wild life exists across Lowca? The parish council was approached by a local resident, who spends considerable time in the vicinity looking for and photographing his finds, about safe guarding this flora and fauna. He expressed his concern about fly tipping in the area. Your parish council is tackling that request, but through the Lowdown would like to bring the rarity of some of the beauty to Lowca residents attention and perhaps once you realise what is around Lowca to enjoy you will have no problem reporting fly tippers and illegal use of quad bikes. It is after all your birth right you are helping to preserve.

Lowca area supports several breeding birds including Skylark and Meadow Pipit, of which there are several pairs. Other breeding birds include Whitethroat and Stonechat, the latter of which has suffered dramatically following the recent harsh winters. Breeding spring visitors include both the Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler. A Kestrel can be regularly seen hunting over the Brows suggesting a good supply of small mammals is present.

Yearly one can see, if they peer skyward, several Wheatear and also observe/hear Sedge Warblers and Grasshopper Warblers. The odd rarity can occasionally turn up and in February of this year a Richard's Pipit was seen on the Brows, probably this is the first recording of this bird in Cumbria for about 8 years. Also, in October 2013 there was discovered a Yellow Browed Warbler and even though in the trees at the entrance to the Rugby Club it further emphasises how Lowca is an important haven for migrating birds.

During the spring and summer several butterflies and moths can be found in Lowca's hedgerows and scrubland. Probably the most important butterfly seen is the Small Blue but several others can be found including; Large White, Small Tortoiseshell, Common Blue, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Gatekeeper, Wall, Small Skipper and Large Skipper.

There are several day flying moths to be found. The most abundant moth is the Narrow Bordered Five Spot Burnet. There are thousands of these visible if you look for them during June/July. Their caterpillars feed on the Kidney Vetch and their chrysalis can be seen on fence wires if one takes the trouble to look. Once they emerge from the chrysalis they can be seen on the Thistles and Tufted Vetch doing what they have to do before they sadly die, they only last a few weeks. Other moths that have been identified are Six Spot Burnet, Yellow Shell and Garden Tiger.

There are a number of wild flowers to be found in the Lowca vicinity. Already mentioned are Kidney Vetch and Tufted Vetch which are important food plants for the moth caterpillars. Also to be found are Marsh Bedstraw, Lesser Celandine, White Campion and Self Heal to name but a few. However, probably more important are the three species of orchid that can be found, Common Spotted Orchid, Northern Marsh Orchid and last but by no means least, Bee Orchid.

At the request of the individual who provided all the detail we have not been specific about locations of these local treasures and ask all if they discover them on their travels to treat them with respect, leaving them in the environment you find them. Only collect CAMERA images, not the real thing.

Coloured photos of some of the butterflies and moths plus flowers will be put into the village notice board and also put on the new parish council website at [www.lowcapc.org.uk](http://www.lowcapc.org.uk) in the photo section.

## LOCAL BY-ELECTION 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

At the general election in May, Sue Hayman who was the representative for Lowca, on Cumbria County Council, was elected as a Member of Parliament for Workington. This has meant that there has been no active representation for Lowca on the county council. This position has changed as Sue Hayman has now officially resigned her county council post, this of course has created a vacancy to be filled and a by-election will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> October. At the time of compiling the Lowdown we are not aware of whom the candidates will be, but we do know that the polling station for Lowca residents will as normal be the Village Hall.

## PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

In the last edition of the Lowca Lowdown we advised that there were two vacancies for parish councillors and would anyone interested please step forward with a letter of application. Within the last couple of weeks two Lowca residents have, "thrown their hats in the ring" as they say in election parlance. However as there is no election as such, the parish council are making arrangements to interview the two perspective candidates. The outcome of those interviews will be made public in the notice board, on the Lowca website and of course in the next issue of the Lowdown in December.

## PIT BANK IS OFFICIALLY A BRIDLEWAY.

The old adage is “use it or lose it” and Parish Cllr Mercia Oliver had taken that on board as she campaigned over recent years to establish that there was an established bridleway from Harrington down to Parton using the pit bank and not the back road as the Ordnance Survey map indicated. On page 8 overleaf you will see confirmation of the bridleway on the map we reproduce with acknowledgment to Cumbria County Council and Ordnance Survey.

The new route runs from point A at the top of the map down to Point B, the path is officially 5 metres wide between points C to D and 3 mtr for the top and lower sections. The effective date for this official recognition was 1<sup>st</sup> Feb’ 2013 and it’s now part of the coastal pathway route through Copeland.

Congratulations to Mercia for her doggedness in seeing the task through from finding people who had walked the pathway for a number of years and to Andy Sims of Cumbria County Councils Mapping Office who was so instrumental in helping her prove her case to the relevant authorities.

One of the important points of establishing this pathway is that for its whole length it is NOT registered for use by motor vehicles, quad bikes or scrambler bikes, but is OK for push bikes. As it is legally a highway, therefore in the same way as any road, the police will enforce traffic offences, its misuse. The 2026 ‘cut-off date’ introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 will extinguish unrecorded rights of way if they came into being before 1949. It is vital that any currently unrecorded bridleways or byways are recorded before 2026, or they could be lost forever. Therefore if you know of any other local unclaimed bridleways please let your parish council know.



## WHERE WAS THAT AA BOX? BY A CUMBRIAN KING!

In the last issue of the Lowdown on page 8 there was a picture of an old timber AA Box. It was box No 487 and the question was asked if you knew where it was.

Well we can put you out of your misery, that box is located on the A591 on the Keswick to Grasmere road, just north of Grasmere. It is actually situated on the Pass of Dunmail Raise. The modern road runs close to an old track and the pass was the scene of a bloody Dark Age battle for control of Cumbria between King Dunmail, the last King of Cumbria, and the combined forces of the Saxon King Edmund I and Malcolm, the King of Scots.

King Dunmail lost the battle, AD945, and legend has it that some of his followers were made to collect rocks and stones that created the "cairn" which was his burial place, still visible today and so the name Pass of Dunmail Raise as it is known today. If you know your Wordsworth and his Waggoner, Dunmail gets his mention:-

The horses cautiously pursue  
Their way, without mishap or fault;  
And now have reached that pile of stones,  
Heaped over brave King Dunmail's bones;  
He who had once supreme command,  
Last king of rocky Cumberland  
His bones, and those of all his Power,  
Slain here in a disastrous hour'

That is your quarterly dose of "pointless" trivia; the history of Cumbria has many such intriguing tales, characters and legends. Who thought Dunmail was just a retail Park?

# QUESTIONNAIRES

Sorry folks but this quarter your Lowdown has a couple of questionnaires inserted in it, a bit like buses you never see one then two come along at the same time. There is a reason though and your co-operation in completing them would be much appreciated, for the following reasons.

Trying to raise funds is now a much more difficult task than in days when public funding was plentiful. Don't get it wrong there are funds out there, however nowadays your parish council has to jump through more hoops and go that extra mile to prove to the source of available monies why Lowca should be considered ahead of others, who feel they are as equally qualified to hold out the begging bowl.

Your parish council has two projects on the go for the benefit of the community. The first one concerns a request for a bus shelter positioned in East Road by the parish notice board. Reading this as a motorist or someone who gets chauffeured around in a car you may consider a bus shelter a "luxury" for Lowca. However the request has been put to the parish council and supported by a petition signed by some of the local bus users.

Stagecoach bus company are prepared to back the proposal when the planning application is made. Parton has a bus shelter so why not Lowca? Please remember that there are Lowca residents who have visitors who are dependant the service, so your support by filling in the form would be much appreciated by the bus using residents and their visitors. If you need convincing of its use, go and stand at the current bus stop in East Rd and feel the wind, more so imagine it when the wind drives the rain along.

The second questionnaire has 2 copies, not because we have inserted 2 copies by mistake the potential funding source for the project insisted that every home in Lowca got 2 copies to fill in, so that more than one member of the home could have a say.

The current Millennium garden play area is now starting to show its age and with all play area equipment it only has a certain useful working life, plus the play ground equipment suppliers adapt their items to changes in line with what children want to play on. Some of us can remember when a slide was a basic slide, steps up one side and metal slope down the other. Nowadays they are multi coloured and dependant on the money spent can look like pirate ships or even more elaborate affairs.

Lowca is not having a pirate ship, but let's give the local children a play area they would use and enjoy and to that end we need those play area questionnaires completing as well. Please take the couple of minutes to complete the forms and then return them.

Marjorie Moore at 5 East Road has kindly volunteered to be the collection point for both the completed questionnaires, play area and bus shelter. Just post them through her letter box and she will collect them altogether and take them to the October parish council meeting. That meeting is not until Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October so that gives everyone plenty of time to complete and return the forms.

The total number of returned forms will be displayed in the parish notice board, with some of your comments and views, plus there will be a detailed feedback report in the December Lowdown.

Please support the bus users and the children of Lowca.

# KKS

## BODY REPAIRS

- Accident Repair Specialists • Tractor Restoration
- Insurance Work Undertaken

Main Street, Frizington, CA26 3PE

Tel: 01946 817973 email: [sales@kksbodyrepairs.co.uk](mailto:sales@kksbodyrepairs.co.uk)

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