

### Not you we hope!!!



We are sure that most residents and motorists in Lowca will recognise the speed hump in the picture, it is at the southerly entrance to the village after the Parton turn off. The vast majority of drivers slow down as they negotiate the hump and enter the 30-mph area. However, some drivers have been seen, without reducing their speed, just swerving to the left mounting the kerb, which is not very high at that point, treating the object as a Formula 1 chicane, before returning to the carriageway. There have been some very scary moments for resident's exiting the driveway

immediately above the speed hump, plus some terrified pedestrians who have been walking down the hill who suddenly see a speeding car careering towards them which then thankfully, so far, has returned to the carriageway and on into the village.

The police are aware of the practise and would welcome dash cam evidence of it happening or smartphone video footage. Cumbria Highways engineers have inspected the carriageway and later this year will carryout planned resurfacing and at the same time raise the kerbstones, which should stop the practise. It does not happen on the other side of the road, due to the kerb height which would damage vehicle tyres and their rims. If it still persists after the kerb is raised, then a large bollard will be installed on the pavement edge, by the speed hump. It is to be hoped that the drivers of the offending vehicles are not Lowca folk, because it is illegal, dangerous and basically stupid with no thought to others safety.

#### LOWCA WAR MEMORIAL CELEBRATIONS

This is a plenty of advance warning for your 2020 diary. Following on from the well-attended centenary celebrations in November 2018 at the Lowca War Memorial which celebrated the end of World War One, your parish council and local forces representatives are planning a special War Memorial celebration. The original memorial was unveiled on April 25<sup>th</sup> 1920 at 3pm. Luckily 100 years later 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020 will be on a Saturday and that date is ear marked for the celebration. Thanks to the assistance of the former Lowca resident who compiled the commemorative booklet done for the WW1 centenary the production of another similar booklet is to be done and distributed to each house in Lowca in April 2020. The booklet will have details of all the others named on the memorial from WWII plus details of other residents not named, but known to have fallen. The school will be involved and representatives from the forces plus hopefully a band can be found to help mark the occasion. It is only 9 months away, which might seem a long time, but there is much work to be done. If you would like to involved or offer assistance then please contact Cllr Tom Milligan who is going to bring all parties involved together.

## Were these yours or belong to someone you know?



At the June parish council meeting Cliff Walker, Deputy Community Services Manager for Copeland, attended and gave a very informative talk about his role covering fly tipping, dog fouling and nuisance dogs plus the problem of car parking at inappropriate areas. As I started this article the attached photo arrived in my inbox, supplied by a local resident. He had seen these two mattresses dumped on the back road down from Lowca Cottage Farm. A request has been made to Copeland to have them removed but that costs money. Please can the parish council and Copeland again ask residents to report such dumping if you witness it, noting any vehicle registration numbers, these mattresses were not carried on anyone's back. If you buy a cheap mattress off anyone and they say they will dispose of the old one as a sweetener to clinch the sale, remember anyone taking rubbish from your property must be properly licensed

have and show you the appropriate certificate to do that and give you a receipt. Even if they charge you a fee if they are not properly licensed to provide that service you are just as liable to prosecution and a fine.

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### Lowca Scarecrow competition.

Councillor Tom Milligan is proposing to organise a Lowca scarecrow competition. Harvest Festival this year is Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October therefore judging and awarding of prizes will have to be prior to that date. It will be run in conjunction with the school and local residents. I am aware that Cllr Tom is currently organising the exact rules and entry categories and some local folk who will act as judges. As the details are known they will be on the parish council Facebook page, put up on the parish council website and of course notices in the parish noticeboard in East Road, plus flyers in the village hall and hopefully the rugby league club.

Thank you to AS Design

This should have appeared in an earlier Lowdown but yours truly forgot to mention AS Design based at Brewery yard Ind Est, Cleator Moor, for their donation of the signage that is visible in the Lowca War Memorial garden. An overdue but big thank you to Adam at AS Design from Lowca residents.

# Your village hall, where next?

## Simple question to residents of Lowca residents is do you want a village hall?

Let's establish immediately that question does not mean the Lowca Social Club. That is a separate trading entity within the village hall. It now finally has an annual renewable Occupational Licence which is next due for renewal in January 2020. The success or otherwise of that venture is dependent on customers and sales during its opening hours. It pays a weekly rental to the Village Hall Management Committee as per the terms of its Occupational Licence. Without a village hall there will be no social club or any other organisation using the facility.

In December 2017, at a very boisterous Village Hall Management Committee AGM meeting, the then committee suspended the AGM to clarify questions raised by Lowca residents about how committee members were proposed and who could be proposed to the committee. In January 2018 at a reconvened meeting attended by 40+ residents a new committee was elected.

Very worryingly though is that on July 24<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 7.30pm at the hall the AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee is to be held. Whether you receive this Lowdown before that meeting is debatable, so you ought to be aware that 5 of the current management committee are not standing for re-election, no chairman, no treasurer, no secretary it looks like it could just be 4 parish council representatives and possibly only 1 other representative. Perhaps residents who are aware of the AGM will attend and propose and elect alternative committee members?

Historically Lowca village hall has been held in a charity trust since 1929 for you the villagers of Lowca, it is often referred to and known as the Miners Welfare club, but the actual charity document states the following.

**The object of the charity shall be the provision of a recreation ground and village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Lowca.**

In the days of pits in Lowca area, No 10 finally closing in 1968, the active and profitable social club which operated within the building paid for all the costs and maintenance of the building. In return it paid no rent. That was the basis of the arrangement. Over the intervening years social habits and Charity law changed and some many years ago the social club within the building should have operated under an "Occupational Licence." The current management committee have finally got that legal licence in place, repairs have recently been made to the roof and changes made to the physical gas supply to the building.

The charity document has the following clause, **if the said land and building is no longer required for use of the object of the charity then the committee may sell the same or any part thereof.** The management committee and the Custodian Trustee (parish council) just need the charity commissions agreement and that of CISWO. All proceeds from the sale must then be handed to CISWO, who originally provided the building.

**Your village hall has to be self-sufficient; it has to have a keen committed committee; it needs renovation and refurbishment. The committee has an obligation to hold meetings, hold an annual meeting and make annual financial declarations to the Charity Commission. It needs community groups to use it and pay for that use. It is a case of Lowca residents, use it or lose it. The terms of the charity commission schedule will not allow the building to just become redundant and derelict.**

The building needs a proactive unpaid committee of volunteers voted for by locals who want to be involved with overseeing a major refurbishment, which will require seeking funding, there are organisations to help with that aspect. The building then needs promoting to get local organisation using it. ***If the answer to wanting a village hall is yes, that residents want to keep the asset, then contact the parish council and they will put you in touch with management committee members or ensure that an EGM is arranged, if necessary, to put the appropriate management structure in place at a meeting open to all Lowca residents. It is not the parish council's responsibility to run the village hall, that responsibility falls to residents and the village hall's management committee.***

## Calling all potential young campanologists



It never ceases to amaze me as to what arrives in my email inbox. Problems with drivers dodging speed humps, damaged footpaths, car parking problems or this request, **I am tower captain and a trained teacher, for St Bridget's. Bell ringing is a fantastic activity for youngsters - I was wondering if you could help with publicising bell ringing sessions at St Bridget's for young teens during the summer hols? The bells are very, light and very suitable for youngsters, and they tend to pick it up so much more quickly than older learners. I thought about an activity week in August.** So, we

followed the email up and does this appeal to any of Lowca's local youngsters, 12 years of age upwards?

The other weekend over 24 teams of young bell ringers from all over the country spent a happy weekend in Liverpool. They were competing in a bellringing contest, trying to be the best in the country. Ringing is a fast-moving, challenging activity, that is being taken over by young people, who find ringing with their friends to be fun, enjoyable and satisfying. As well as loud!!!

Having installed the new bells at St Bridget's and got an adult team going, we are now looking for teenagers to train up to enter next year's contest, which will be in Sheffield. It is easy to learn but challenging to perfect. There is a formal training scheme with logbooks, levels, badges and certificates, and qualified teachers to teach them and we would like to offer an activity taster week to Lowca children in August. If you have a child aged 12 or over, please read the enclosed leaflet for more information about why they will love it so much, once they give a first go!

The week will be on Monday 19th August till Friday 23rd, running from 10:30 to 4pm, with a break for a packed lunch in the middle. Activities will include a trip up the tower to see the new bells and how they are made to swing and are controllable; plenty of goes at learning to ring a bell; computer challenges at keeping the timing right; ringing a Christmas Carol or two on the handbells, learning how a bell is cast and tuned; activities that explain the patterns that bells ring; videos showing various things of interest etc.

A parent will need to come to see what they are doing and sign a permission form on the first day or this would be possible on our Tuesday and Wednesday 7pm evening sessions in the weeks before, if easier.

To apply for a place or to ask for more details, please email me - [chrisdecordova@gmail.com](mailto:chrisdecordova@gmail.com)

### **Lowca Playground Rubbish**



On another page in this Lowdown we print a picture of some dumped mattresses, but dumped rubbish is closer to home. This picture shows the efforts of a local resident who in a couple of minutes gathered the assorted plastic and can rubbish from the Lowca play area. The daft thing is, as is clearly visible in the picture, a litter bin for all such rubbish is provided.

Could all parents remind their younger children to use the bins for such rubbish and would older users of the play area remember to use the bins and remind others to use them as well. A thank you kids in anticipation that you will help to keep Lowca tidy.