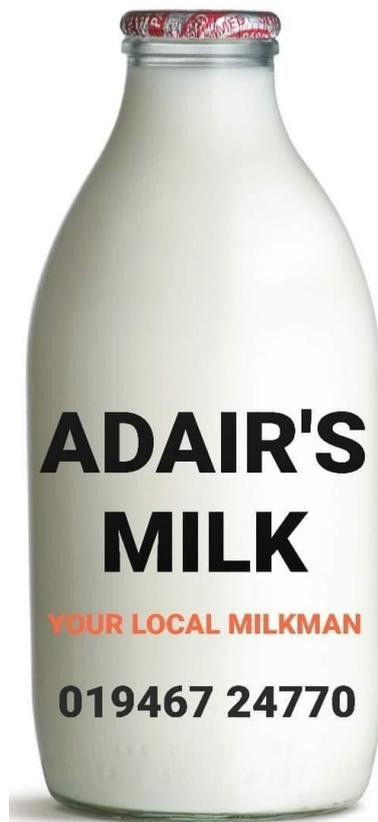


Corvid 19, Lockdown, VE Day, how Lowca Coped

Lowca did cope, a Lowdown to confirm what happened as residents stayed indoors and adapted to lockdown.

Milk Bottles appeared



Yes, who would have imagined it, not quite Ernie the fastest milkman in the west, but new Lowca councillor Lola Tumelty-Harris saw that there was a need for this now important community service due to Corvid 19 and the enforced lockdown.

In Lola's words, "Bill's son is our friend and we have asked him a few times if they would deliver to us and to start with he said no, then with the pandemic I explained that a lot of people in Lowca, Parton & Low Moresby would struggle to get normal shopping so milk and eggs delivered to their doorstep's would help. Therefore, would he consider extending his round? He travels all the way from Drigg but agreed to increase his delivery area. When I first advertised it on Facebook, he started with 25 houses it's now somewhere nearer 50 houses and I still continue to get a few messages a week to add new customers. Bill who in his 70s and has been doing this for forty years (search internet, article in the Whitehaven News & Star) it brings back a bit of tradition into our little village and hopefully with it also being in the Lowca Lowdown he can then gain new customers so with new custom come new products hopefully."

A big thank you to Bill Adair for extending his milk round, I gather by delivering to Lowca/Parton and Low Moresby he has increased from 400 customers to 500. If you didn't know of the new service, and would like to join, Bill's his name and his number is on the bottle.

Four new parish councillors

Just before the lockdown Lowca Parish Council gained four new councillors, they are Katherine Thinnesen, David Wrench, Lola Tumelty-Harris and Ruth Barwise. I am certain David, Ruth and existing councillors will not mind if one points out that with Katherine and Lola becoming councillors, they have drastically reduced the age profile of the council. Their community enthusiasm over the past few months, Lola with the milk delivery round initiative and Katherine with the VE Day House Dressing, photographs and fund raising resulted in a donation to the British Legion of £284.00.

A pictorial story of Lowca celebrating 75th VE Day commemoration



FRIDAY 8th MAY
VE DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Join your neighbours in a nationwide 'stay at home' street party!

Prepare for the day by decorating your house in red, white and blue.

11am
2 minutes silence on your doorstep

3pm
Churchill speech shown on BBC

Then grab your picnic blankets or garden table and head to your front garden for:

4pm
Tea & scones (or coffee & cake)

6pm
Dinner and raise your glass to your neighbours

9pm
Nationwide sing-a-long to 'We'll meet again' with Royal British Legion after the Queen's address

Please remember to follow the social distancing rules.



VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations

STAY AT HOME STREET PARTY!

Friday 8th May 2020

DECORATE YOUR HOUSE RED, WHITE AND BLUE AND ENJOY A PICNIC IN YOUR FRONT GARDEN

Commemorate the end of WW2 by celebrating with your family, friends and neighbours!



There was a selection of over 40 photographs to choose from to illustrate the Lowca "Stay at Home Street Party" not enough space to use them all. The military aspect of the significance of the day's celebrations was as usual represented by William Rowley and David Gorman at a ceremony in Ghyll Grove. Covid 19 may have stopped the war memorial celebrations planned for Saturday 25th April, but it was not stopping British Bulldog Spirit, by the 8th May, well done Lowca community, big pat on the collective back.



Lowca Rugby Club Members hit the Peaks

James McNally, Jamie Haile, Gareth Hiddleston, Jake Smye, John Allen and Callum Sirkett of Lowca Rugby League Club completed the 5-peak challenge, raising donations in aid of Mental Health Awareness on Saturday 11th July, starting at Ullock Pike then Longside, Carl Side, Skiddaw and finally Dodd. The local lads completed this in a time of 3 hours 45 minutes.

The donations raised money towards the running of Yewdale Ward, the acute mental health inpatient unit at WCH, Whitehaven, which understandably with the recent

Corvid 19 effects on some members of the community have had their services stretched. This had been a great effort involving other local rugby clubs which had participated with the challenge on the same date and they collectively have managed to raise a sum of £17,000 to date and still rising. All for a great cause.

PARISH COUNCIL MOVES TO ZOOM

When lockdown was made official your parish council was shut down as there was nothing in its standing orders to meet, other than in a public meeting place. There are **9,000** parish and town councils in England. Over 16 million people live in communities served by these local councils, which is around 25% of the population, and about 80,000 councillors serve on these councils, therefore the government obviously could not cut off that important part of the community.

The law was quickly changed to enable parish councils to hold virtual meetings and as the clerk I explored the numerous options. I will save you that detail other than to say we opted to use the Zoom paid for Pro platform and to their credit your councillors embraced the new form of meeting, armed with their smart phones, tablets and laptops. We had a dummy meeting, hilarious but constructive. Since those first steps we have mastered mute, video on/off and successfully held two parish council meetings, which means all the end of year accounts have been completed and signed off and community issues are still considered every month.

If members of the public want to take part please email the clerk up to 4 hours before the meeting time and you will be provided with an invitation link to the meeting. We can accommodate up to 100 participants and we have county and district councillors attending the virtual meeting. How long it will continue as a virtual meeting we don't yet know, but for the future I think a combination of virtual and physical meetings could be the future.

LOWCA PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mercia J Oliver, 6 Micklam Cottages, Lowca, CA28 6QR. Mobile 07933975766

Tom Milligan, 1-2 Micklam Cottages, Lowca, CA28 6QR. Mobile 07956787089

Hugh Thinnesen, Seabreeze, Lowca, CA28 6PZ. Mobile 07825155008

Ann Oliver, Glenlea Guest House, Stamford Hill, Lowca, CA28 6PS. Home 01946 693873

Lola Tumelty-Harris, 22 Ghyll Grove, Lowca, CA28 6QQ. Mobile 07930286726

Ruth Barwise, School House, Lowca, CA28 6QS. Mobile 07876626760

Katherine Thinnesen, 46 Meadow View, Lowca, CA28 6QE. Mobile 07534654398

Parish Clerk, Mike Milner, 54 Wentworth Park, Stainburn, Workington CA14 1XP,

Home 01900 66040. email lowcaparishclerk@gmail.com



Lowca Parish Council. Our Facebook page. Website. www.lowcapc.org.uk

Cumbria County Councillor. Martin Barbour, email martin.barbour@cumbria.gov.uk

Mobile 07795207894

Copeland Borough Councillors

David Banks, email david.banks@copeland.gov.uk Mobile 07795452364

Jackie Bowman, email jackie.bowman@copeland.gov.uk Mobile 07730459905

St Bridget's also closed

We have all faced challenges during the lockdown and churches are no different. St Bridget's is at the centre of our community, a place where all ages can gather. But it was forced to close its doors on March 15th and has remained closed ever since. In line with Government directives we were no longer allowed to hold mass gatherings – services, end of year school celebrations, baptisms, weddings and most distressing of all, funerals. The doors were to remain firmly locked! During that last service there were tears. After all, in times of uncertainty, the church is here for the community isn't it? With 120+ people on the church Electoral Roll and the wider community there was a real need for church to continue but in what form?

Rev Paul Kerry with a team of willing volunteers decided to embrace technology and a new way of delivering weekly services. Using his mobile phone and laptop Paul started streaming live services from his study at the Rectory. The first one aired during lockdown week via Facebook live stream. It was Mothering Sunday which is usually a popular time to come to church. There was an urgent need to connect with people on this day of all days. With Paul's eldest son Joseph on hand to do the reading it was a success and St Bridget's broadcasting was underway! On that first Sunday we found we were connecting not just with Lowca folk but others in far flung places such as Canada, Australia and America.

During this ongoing pandemic the church family has cared for one another in a variety of ways including phone calls, emails and letters, deliveries to hospitals, collection of prescriptions and shopping and one to one outside walks with those living alone. Another temporary casualty of this virus has been the suspension of bell ringing. We have a small tower room which makes social distancing very difficult. But one day the bells will ring out across Lowca and beyond and what a joyous day that will be! *Ruth Barwise*

Lowca Village Hall is reopening

The Lowca Village Hall Management committee that the hall can be now be booked for use but obviously there are completely new conditions in these "new normal times."

The Hall can be booked via Gillian Strickland, on 07871003912. However, due to the pandemic there are restrictions in place,

- a) there is a new supplement to the hire agreement (provided by ACRE).
- b) all persons booking MUST read and adhere to the Covid risk assessment, on display in Hall and available via email on request.
- c) many areas of the hall are out of bounds and signage is in place for this.
- d) sanitising station on entry MUST be used by all visitors
- e) social distancing measures must be adhered to.
- f) cleaning undertaken before and after each booking.
- g) Names and contacts of all attendees must be recorded for track and trace if anything should happen.

New Lowca Social Club

The team running the bar for the New Social Club in the Village Hall have advised that currently they are open, Thursday 7pm to 11pm. Friday and Saturday 7pm to 12. On Sunday 12 noon to 11pm and look forward to seeing members and their guests. Obviously distancing restrictions and conditions apply.

As soon as Government restrictions allow, they will be providing live entertainment, but obviously that is a decision that is not in their hands.