

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW



Since March, the Coronavirus pandemic has dramatically altered the way in which people have gone about their daily lives. However, while the national lockdown had stopped Lowca's planned celebration of the War Memorials Centenary back on 25th April, regular representatives were fortunately able to attend a ceremony on Sunday 8th November to lay a commemorative wreath, by following strict social distancing guidelines.

Hubert Donnan laid his regimental wreath, followed by David Gorman and William Rowley both laying regimental wreaths. Alex Wilson from the Buffs also laid a wreath and the Lowca Parish Council wreath was laid, on behalf of the Lowca Community, by parish council chair Mercia Oliver.

On the Remembrance Sunday there were a small number of other individuals present, all very much socially distancing who paid their silent tribute to the fallen. On November 11th at 11am there were again a small number of local residents who stood silently to remember those who had paid the ultimate sacrifice. A pandemic was not going to stop a national tribute, similar small very social distanced gatherings took place right across the UK.



Lowca Parish Council have obtained again this year a donated Christmas Tree and it will, as last year, be on the grass behind the bus shelter at the end of East Road. It is just a festive decorated and lit visual attraction, please don't encroach inside the fenced off barrier. Just something to brighten this strange Covid 19 season of goodwill.

St Bridget's Church News



Although the church building remains closed for regular weekly services, we have been able to host funerals, a wedding and weekly "Friday drop ins". All gatherings have been held under strict Covid guidance. Weekly services continue to be held online via Facebook which are shared on the Lowca Community Facebook page on Sundays and Wednesdays. A new addition has been the Sunday 10am Sunday School zoom get togethers. These are led by the regular leaders with fun activities to do at home. If you have primary school age children and would like to join us please send a message to paulkerrywork@gmail.com for the link.

In August we held an open air (picture) family social in the grounds which was well attended and the weather was perfect for a change! It was so nice to see and meet with old friends again! The closure of church has allowed vital safety work to be undertaken to a memorial that was coming off the wall inside the church and repairs to the medieval arch in the grounds.

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. However, on Armistice Day a single bell was tolled, the first since March which rang out a sign of hope to us all.

During this ongoing pandemic the church family continues to care 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. The virus is still out there and the church has a duty to keep safe those who wish to use the church. As we move forward the PCC's approach remains a slow considered one. We will be back up and running **but** only when it is safe enough to do so.

When lockdown2 is lifted after 2nd December the Church Council will meet to decide what our next steps will be in reopening St Bridget's. Updates will be put on Facebook about Christmas activities that will be happening around the parish. *Ruth Barwise*

Bin collection and bin lorry access prevented by parked vehicles.

The issue of bin collections not been fulfilled by Copeland due to residents parked vehicles in positions that stop the refuse vehicle being able to pass parked vehicles was brought to the parish council's attention. Both Copeland BC and the parish council are aware of parking issues caused by residents working from home, but Copeland BC's policy and instructions to their teams is to try for a second week and then abandon future collections until access is guaranteed. Therefore, in areas with parking issues could residents please remember the day their bins are to be collected and ensure that the bin lorry has clear access on that day. As Copeland BC point out the vehicle requires the space of 2 or 3 cars to get safely past parked vehicles.



Serve the Lowca community!

Lowca Village Hall Committee

Members Required, take the building into its 2nd century.

The old Miners Welfare building, officially Lowca's Village Hall and a registered charity will soon turn 100 years old, it needs new committee members to serve on the management committee. Are you 18 years of age or older, resident in Lowca Parish, with an enthusiasm to develop the Lowca Community Spirit? Then why not consider joining the management committee. In its heyday the building was host to numerous local family wedding parties, birthday celebrations and many clubs and associations. If the Covid pandemic has achieved one thing it has rekindled the local community spirit, the village has looked after its own. The current committee have repaired the roof, they are in the process of repairing a rotted floor, but very importantly they have an enthusiastic well organised independent tenant running the new Lowca Social Club, who are redeveloping the licensed bar and its social entertainment. Management Committee members are required to drive the use of the building by other local groups, from Mother's and toddlers, through to OAP entertainment, clubs, indoor bowls, dance groups in fact any legal activity that would flourish and develop in a building that provides secure facilities in a now warm and inviting environment and importantly at a low rental cost to use the facility. Attracted by the thought securing for the next century the building for Lowca's community? Then consider joining the committee. Monetary reward is not on offer, just the priceless satisfaction of watching the community spirit grow as the village hall regains its old beneficial community prestige. That same village camaraderie that brings so many together on Remembrance Day, help build the future history. Contact lowcavillagehall@gmail.com or contact Stuart Pickering or Hugh Thinnesen. Want to start a group or club to use the buildings facilities then use the same contact details. ***Covid 19 will soon be behind us, embrace the new normal, drive the new normal.***

LOWCA PARISH COUNCILLORS

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

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

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

David Wrench, 7 Croft Head View, Lowca, CA28 6QP, home 01946 61217

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

Ruth Barwise, School House, Lowca, CA28 6QS, Home 01946 61686

Katherine Thinnesen, 46 Meadow View, Lowca, CA28 6QE

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

Erin Quinn young lady with a head for heights



6-year-old Erin who is a member of Lowca school has developed a liking for climbing mountains. This she does with her mum Vicki and her grandad John (Spedding). Recently she climbed Skiddaw which is an amazing feat. She also turned it into a fundraiser for school and with the proceeds they are going to buy some large wooden construction equipment for their outdoor play. Big congratulations and well-done Erin!

New bus route to and from Lowca to Whitehaven.

Bus company Stagecoach from 2nd November changed the route of the No1 bus route. Both Lowca and the Parton parish councils have jointly been in correspondence with the bus company prior to the change and since to establish the reason for their actions and to reach a reinstate the original route.

Stagecoach maintain that their decision was taken due to the serious parking problems in Criffel Road in Parton. The road is so narrow that the bus is constantly having to mount the raised kerbs to avoid parked vehicles and this action is resulting in an unacceptable high level of tyre damage and damage to suspension units. Therefore, the trip from Whitehaven now travels along the old route taking in Seven Acres and Ramsay Drive, but returns to the A595 not continuing along Criffel Road, but turns back off the A595 into Brewery Brow and down into Parton and then along to Lowca. The return journey however is from Lowca, straight up to the A595 past St Bridget's and then along the A595 to Briscoe Crescent, no route through Parton.

Both parish councils are seeking a solution with Stagecoach, Highways Department and Home Group who are responsible for that area of Parton housing stock. As this Lowdown is being written site visits are being undertaken with all parties involved. Stagecoach have confirmed that if a solution can be found to the access for their buses without mounting kerbs, along Criffel Road then they will reinstate the route. The obvious solution appeared simple, just substitute the large bus with a smaller bus based on the Mercedes Sprinter van chassis which are seen on some Stagecoach route; however, we have been advised that they are for specific routes and subsidised by local companies so not available for No1 route. We did ask.

One concession from Stagecoach is that if a Parton resident gets on the bus on the outward-bound journey to Lowca and then continues on the bus to Whitehaven, they will not be penalised fare wise.

Community litter picking



In October you may have noticed that local resident John Thinnesen, in the picture displaying his best photogenic view, cleared all of the litter that was revealed when Highways cut the verges. He cleared the section from the rugby club entrance to beyond the chicane. Well done John, a much-appreciated endeavour. Obviously under the current Covid 19 restrictions neither the parish council or the school can organise litter picking task forces. No public gatherings are permissible. What would be appreciated though, if possible, could local residents please consider keeping the area in front of their immediate property's clear of litter, putting the detritus they collect into their own general household waste bin. Every little bit of help would be much appreciated.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO LOWCA RESIDENTS