



GOSFORTH

QUARTERLY **PARISH NEWSLETTER**

DECEMBER 2011

WELCOME TO THIS NEW GOSFORTH PARISH NEWSLETTER

This is the first newsletter to be published by Gosforth's Parish Council and it is being delivered to all households in and around the village. If you would like your events to be published in future newsletters, please contact me on 25730 or email gosforthnursery@btconnect.com. We will be looking for interesting articles and information you may wish to share, and will be contacting businesses and groups who may be interested in advertising.

Gillian Jackson

Parish Councils tend to be a mixed bunch. Some do the bare minimum required of them by law and their parishioners; others are hyper-active. Some meet "once every pancake Tuesday"; others twice a month. In all this mix, I believe that, generally, Parish Councils are missing a most important point and that is that they should be there to make a difference, it being a given that that difference should always be for the benefit of their communities.

I would like Gosforth Parish Council to make a difference – a difference that is as in the new childrens' playground, or the MUGA (multi use games area), or the marvellous new nursery building. To a greater or lesser extent the Parish Council played a role in each of these projects, but the more important factor here was that that role was played in conjunction with a very substantial and overwhelmingly important contribution from the Community at large, and herein lies the key to making a positive and beneficial difference – the participation of the Community.

One of the major reasons for the advent of a Gosforth Parish Newsletter is the need for a means of communication within the Parish because, without such a method of communication, awareness of ideas and aspirations and involvement and co-operation in and with them becomes just a little tricky. This is the first (I hope of many and regular) such newsletters. I have no doubt that its shape and its content will be modified over time and as there is a greater community involvement. In the meantime, and in the spirit of making a difference, keep an eye open, and perhaps get involved in the Blengdale Crossings Project, or the Gosforth to Seascale Cycleway, or the upgrading and refurbishment of the Blengdale Day Care Centre at Bradbury House.

Mike McKinley, Chairman

GOSFORTH'S PROJECTS

The Parish Council has given support to two recent projects in the village that have improved facilities for local children and families.

There were sunny celebrations at the official opening of the new village play area in July when Cumbria High Sheriff Iona Frost-Pennington was helped with ribbon cutting by local children and Max the meadow vole from Muncaster Castle.

Earlier in the year Gosforth Nursery moved into their new purpose-built premises in the grounds of Gosforth School, extending the facilities they are able to provide for local children.

In addition to grants and funding from a number of organisations, much fundraising was carried out in our community, which enabled both of these projects to reach successful fruition. Support was also received from Copeland Community Fund – an agreement negotiated with the Government to recognise the service the Borough provide to the nation by hosting the Low Level Waste Repository close to the village of Drigg. Local organisations seeking to raise funds for a specific project can find out more about the fund at www.copelandcommunityfund.co.uk.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE LOCALLY



The Making A Difference Locally (MADL) charity is an independent registered charity (Charity Number 1123800) created in 2008 by Nisa with the intention of assisting more than 2,000 independent retailers supplied by Nisa throughout the UK to raise money for their local communities. The charity works by a specified amount of the cost of certain products promoted in store being allocated to the retailer's MADL fund. For example this month, for every tin of Baxters Soup purchased in store, 2p of the sale will be added to the retailer's MADL fund. Participating Nisa members can then choose the local charity or good cause that they would like to donate their funds to.

The Village Store at Gosforth has been involved with Making a Difference since June 2010. The store has up to date made a £150.00 donation to Gosforth Nursery and is in the process of donating a further cheque for £250.00 to The Friends of Bradbury House and a another cheque is being organised to support the Gosforth School Mini Bus Appeal. David Ancell from The Village Store comments that, "We are delighted with the success of Making a Difference. We recognise that the success of the fund is a direct result of the support that we enjoy from the local community and would like to thank all our customers for their support." Celia Walker (part of the store's fixtures and fittings!) is delighted with the contribution the store can make to local good causes, but is keen to stress that, "We are increasingly serving new customers from outlying villages and if there are any causes that we can support in these communities we would love to hear from you."

The number of products that are promoted changes on a regular basis but the purchase of the Heritage range of products constantly contributes to the Making a Difference fund that the store can access to help local good causes. Shopping locally can help your local community!

GOSFORTH TO SEASCALE CYCLEWAY

This has come a step nearer with the NDA, Sellafield managers and Cumbria County Council officers now giving positive support to the project. Sustrans, the national organisation behind cycleways, is allocating practical support to initiate the start of the project by allocating its officer who deals with land negotiations to start approaching landowners and farmers to discuss route issues. Although some environmental surveys have been carried out the exact route has not yet been finalised and may not be as originally proposed by Sustrans, or even as discussed with people recently as there are some difficulties owing to poor land drainage.

Sustrans has allocated route number 727 for this cycleway. An idea is to extend the cycleway to Wasdale Head through Nether Wasdale and call it "The Wasdale Way". No extra work would be involved except signage.

Cumbria County Council has included this project in its latest bid for future funding. All highway safety issues have been identified and practical solutions suggested. A detailed plan will shortly be available once time scales for the various activities are known. *Dave Gray*

GOSFORTH HALL'S NEW ACCOMMODATION

Rod and Barbara Davies at the Gosforth Hall Inn have spent the last seven years designing and building a thirteen-bedroom extension. They believe that the beautiful new building, due to 'go live' as this magazine is published, will address the shortage of accommodation within the Western Lake District. Barbara adds; 'This is a great example of where perseverance has overcome the many barriers that the current climate throws up for small businesses. The extra bedrooms elevate the status of Gosforth Hall to become a significant provider of high quality, yet affordable, rooms.' Each oak-floored room will offer king size or twin beds, walk-in wet rooms, flat screen televisions, i-Pod docking stations and are heated by a 'state of the art' renewable energy boiler. The new build has been designed to cater for single users, families, wheelchair users, large groups and dog owners.

CARE AWARD GOES TO TOM MACKENZIE

Tom Mackenzie won a crystal plaque trophy in the ancillary worker category at the The Great North West Care Awards 2011. "I was overwhelmed and felt so proud not just for me but what it means to everybody at Bradbury House and at the Day Centre," said Tom.

He was nominated by Nicola Hallett, Home Manager and Christine Low, Assistant Manager for his dedication to all our residents and clients at the Day Centre. He does over and above his duties and is a very caring and kind man. The residents and clients think the world of him as do our staff; he is very thoughtful and has a very cheerful disposition and makes everyone smile.

He drives the mini bus three days a week picking up clients for the day centre. He does all of the garden maintenance as well as any house maintenance, including decorating and unblocking drains, toilets – you name it! The residents and staff know that if they ask Tom to do something he does it straight away.

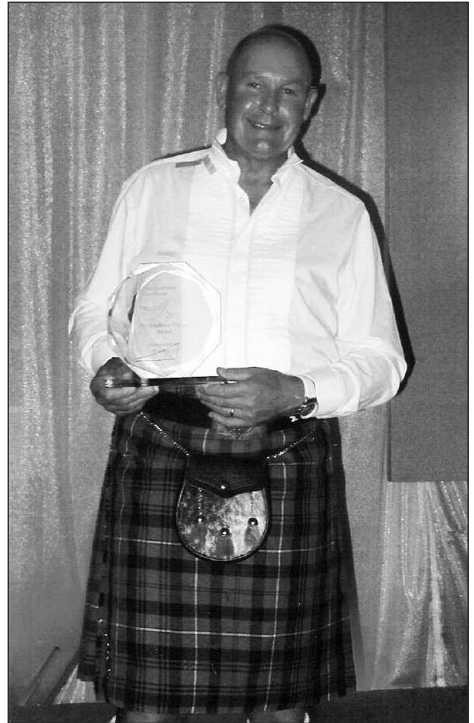
He comes in on his day off to ensure the skip bins are put out for the bin men. Tom supports all the charity and fundraising events at the home giving up his time and contributing with donations.

On top of all this he dresses up in costumes to make the clients and residents laugh and enhance their journey on the bus and their days at Bradbury. As well as being Santa or a Christmas fairy during the holidays, Al Jolson, John Wayne, Captain Driver, Cowboy on inflatable horse, Indian war chief, Russian spy, Prince Charles, Foreign Legionnaire – any of these may put in an appearance at anytime!

Tom's age? A very young 59.

Residents quotes: "I don't know what we would do without him."

"You know when Tom is about the place."



"If I need him he is there straight away. I never have to wait long."

"He is wonderful. It doesn't matter what we ask him, he will do it for us and is always cheerful."

"There is something about Tom! He is the right man in the right job"

He won a crystal plaque trophy for Ancillary Worker North West 2011.

He has worked here for the past seven years.

Five members of staff celebrated with Tom, his wife and three friends at the award ceremony in Blackpool. The residents presented Tom with his very own bowler hat. The day centre had a party with Tom. The local paper took his picture and he was in the Whitehaven News and Evening News.

Tom always jokingly tells the story of when he first came for interview and recalls being told it was just a bit of driving and fitting an odd light bulb! Nothing can be further from the truth. Bradbury House would not be the same place without Tom who never fails to surprise and entertain us all!

Christine Low



THE HOBBY & PETSHOP

GOSFORTH

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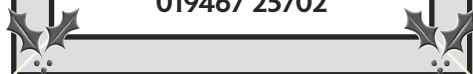
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THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

To all the men, women and children of the village and parish of Gosforth: Feast your eyes on the title above. The Parish Council, with great forethought, has called a meeting of all clubs, societies, groups and institutes in order to start making preparations for the celebration of Her Majesty's sixtieth year on the throne.

To this end, a small steering committee has been formed with the task of bringing together all ideas, from which ever source, and thereafter to formulate a plan of exciting, colourful and amusing activities which will allow the whole parish and beyond to become involved.

Whilst jubilee day itself is to be on the 5 June 2012, we are aware that other major events have already been planned for that date, such as the Whitehaven Festival. In order to avoid clashing with this and other events it is suggested that our village celebration should be on Monday 4 June.

Bearing in mind that a good many of the parish are of the farming community and that June is a busy time for them, our current thought is that we should spread the whole celebration over a period from, say, April to June. In this way we can incorporate many more activities and be far more inclusive of the whole community.

We are very keen to take ideas on board any and all that you may have regarding this exciting year to come. Do bear in mind that facilities like the village hall will need to be booked well in advance and clashes are likely to occur. The steering group has already received quite number of proposals for a variety of activities and we are starting to put together a loosely-knit plan, but we need more. Please get involved and contact us via the list of people below.

Be you a royalist or a republican, this event can be something for the whole community to enjoy and for our children to look back on and cherish. I challenge you all to get involved and make it a year to remember.

Des Hobson, Chairman, Jubilee Steering Committee

Contacts: Des Hobson: deshobson@tiscali.co.uk
25454, John Corran: 25244, David Ancel: 01946
841545, Tyson Norman: 25646, Rob Quayle:
25617, Laura Jackson: 28154

BLENGDALE CROSSINGS

Many people will already know about Blengdale Forest, located in the valley of the River Bleng to the north-east of Gosforth. The network of forest roads, bridleways and paths is used by many people for walking, riding and biking. However the opportunities for people are limited by the washed away Bleng footbridge, lack of a bridge over Scalderskew Beck and some poor path surfaces. In addition a fantastic viewpoint overlooking the River Bleng as it curves into the forest is missed by all but the most adventurous.

Gosforth Parish Council, along with the Forestry Commission and the Lake District National Park Authority, are planning enhancements to the valley aimed at improving access and creating new destinations within the forest. We hope that this will attract even more people, local and visitors, into this beautiful area of the western Lake District fells.

Key elements of our plans are:

- ▶ Construction of new bridges across the River Bleng and Scalderskew Beck.
- ▶ Provision of a new 8km loop bridleway with improved access for pushchairs and wheelchairs.
- ▶ Development of a picnic area and new viewpoints.

We are currently finalising our plans and putting funding in place and we hope to start work in spring/summer next year. Look out for further updates in future issues of this magazine.

We will be holding a public meeting in Gosforth Public Hall at 7pm on 7 December. You'll be able to find out more about what we are planning and let us know what you think.

Visit our website for more information:
<https://sites.google.com/site/blengdalecrossings>

We'd love to hear your thoughts on our plans, particularly whether you think they would make you more likely to use the forest. Please send any comments to our email address:

blengdalecrossings@gmail.com
or care of Chris Walton, 79 Meadowfield.

EVENTS CALENDAR in and around Gosforth

December 2011 - March 2012. La'al Ratty running limited/special services. See <http://www.ravenglass-railway.co.uk/> for details

4, 11, 18 December – Sundays + 21, 22 and 27 to 29 December. Christmas at Muncaster Castle.

See website for continual updates:
<http://www.muncaster.co.uk/christmas-castle-0>

4 December – Sunday. Messy Church, Gosforth Methodist Church, 11.30 am, for children of all ages, must be accompanied by an adult. Free lunch is served to all attending.

7 December – Wednesday. Open Mind History Group Christmas Lunch and Carols. Calder House Hotel, Seascale.

8 December – Thursday. Open Mind Art Appreciation Group meeting "Review of the year and pre-Christmas get-together". 10.45am St Joseph's Church Hall, Seascale. Contact Jean Taylor, Organiser: 019467 28713.

11 December – Sunday. Christingle Service (Children's Society), St. Mary's Church, 4pm.

14 December – Wednesday. West Cumbria Guild of Model Engineers meeting. Christmas nibbles and display of items of engineering interest. Harrington Fishing and Sailing Club, 7.30pm. Visitors welcome. Details: 019467 28938.

15 December – Thursday. Open Mind West Lakes USA "The Musical Menagerie and Mince Pies" with Gavin, Jo and Xandra. 10.15am, Drigg Village Hall.

16 December – Friday. Carol Service, St. Michael & All Angels, Nether Wasdale, 6.30pm.

17 December – Saturday. Chester Christmas Shopper. Diesel-hauled train excursion to Chester from Carlisle, picking up at Seascale 08.37, and returning at 20.10 (provisional timings). Standard, First class and Pullman. www.hf-railtours.co.uk. Bookings 01524 737759.

18 December – Sunday. Carol Service, St. Mary's Church, 6.30pm.

18 December – Sunday. Service with Holy Communion, Gosforth Methodist Church, 3pm.

24 December – Christmas Eve. Crib Service, St. Mary's Church, 4pm, First Communion of Christmas, 11.30pm.

25 December – Christmas Day. Family Communion, St. Mary's Church, 10.30am.

11 January 2012 – Wednesday. West Cumbria Guild of Model Engineers meeting. Harrington Fishing and Sailing Club, 7.30pm. Visitors welcome. Details: 019467 28938.

8 February 2012 – Wednesday. Cumbria Wildlife Trust West Coast Support Group. Illustrated talk by Bill Shaw about his 6 months on St Kilda island. Seascale Methodist Church Hall, 7.30pm. £1.50 includes refreshments.

7 March 2012 – Wednesday. Cumbria Wildlife Trust West Coast Support Group. Illustrated talk by Mike Douglas on the Uplands Juniper Project. Gosforth Methodist Room, 7.30pm. £1.50 includes refreshments.

April. Beginning of Jubilee Celebrations. Dates soon.

18 April 2012 – Wednesday. Cumbria Wildlife Trust West Coast Support Group. Illustrated talk on Golden Eagles by Neil Harnott, Senior Conservation Officer, CWT. Seascale Methodist Church Hall, 7.30pm. £1.50 includes refreshments.

1-3 June 2012 – Friday-Sunday. Whitehaven Festival.

4 June 2012 – Monday. Gosforth Village Jubilee Day. See page 9.

18 August – Saturday. Gosforth Show.

27 August 2012 – Bank holiday Monday. Black Combe Country Fair, behind Millstone's, Bootle. 11.30am start.

REGULAR EVENTS

Beavers. Every Wednesday during school term time, 5.30pm. Gosforth Scout Hut. Contact Jackie Harper 019467 27211.

Blengdale Runners. Every Tuesday, 7pm, starting at the Gosforth Hall Inn. Runners of all ages and abilities are welcome. Contact Mel Gould 019467 25693 for details.

Brownies. Every Thursday during school term time. 5.30-7pm, Gosforth Public Hall. Contact Lisa Wilford 019467 25425.

Cubs. Every Monday during school term time, 5.30pm. Gosforth Scout Hut. Contact Jackie Harper 019467 27211.

Drigg Young Farmers. Every Tuesday 7.30-9pm, Gosforth Methodist Church. Contact Julie Jenkinson 01229 718723.

Gosforth & District Art Society. Meet every Monday, 7pm, Gosforth School Hall.

Gosforth Library. Opening times – Monday 9.30am-12 noon. Wednesday 3pm-6.30pm, Friday 10am-12 noon, Saturday 10.30am-12.30pm.

Gosforth Mothers Union. Meet monthly, usually on a Wednesday. Venues vary – contact Ruth Schofield 019467 25300 for more details.

Gosforth Parish Council Meetings. Second Wednesday of each month. 7pm in Supper Room, Gosforth Public Hall.

Gosforth Pre-School Music Group. 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month, 10am, Gosforth Nursery. Contact 019467 25800 for details.

Gosforth Women's Institute. 1st Tuesday of each month, 7pm, Gosforth Public Hall. Contact Benita Livesey 019467 25381.

Guides. Every Tuesday during school term time. 7.15-8.45pm, usually at Gosforth Public Hall. Contact: Sue Smith 019467 28265.

Health Visitor monthly 'Drop In' session. 3rd Friday of each month, 9.30am, Gosforth Nursery. Contact 019467 25800 for details.

Line Dancing. Every Monday. 7.30pm, Windscale Club, Seascale. £2.00 donation to charity. Contact 019467 28449 for details.

Open Mic Night – Strands, Nether Wasdale. First Wednesday every month. 9pm start. Live music by various singers and groups, including regular appearances by Emma and Paul Winstanley.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A. Third Thursday every month. Gosforth Public Hall. Coffee 10.15am. Speaker starts 11am. Members £1.50. Visitors £2.50. Contact: Mrs Jo Froggatt: 019467 28759.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Discovery Group. Fourth Wednesday every month. St Mary's Room, Gosforth. Coffee 10.15am. Speaker starts 11am. Members £1.50. Visitors £2.50. Contact: Mrs Jo Froggatt: 019467 28759.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A History Group. First Wednesday every month. Drigg Village Hall. Coffee 10.15am. Speaker starts 11am. Members £1.50. Visitors £2.50. Contact: Mrs Jo Froggatt 019467 28759.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Art Appreciation Group. Second Thursday every month. St Joseph's Church Hall, Seascale. 10.30am for 10.45am. Speaker starts 11am. Members £1.50. Visitors £2.50. Contact: Mrs Jo Froggatt 019467 28759.

Over '60s Lunches. Strands, Nether Wasdale. Monday to Thursday, noon to 2.30pm. One course £5, 2 courses £7, 3 courses £9. 019467 26200

Rainbows. Every Monday during school term time 5-6pm, Gosforth Public Hall. Contact: Sarah Millard 019467 25365

Rangers. Every Tuesday during school term time. 7.15-8.45pm, usually in supper room at Gosforth Public Hall. Contact: Sue Smith 019467 28265.

If you know of events from March 2012 that would interest residents of Gosforth please email to goforthnursery@btconnect.com for publication in the next newsletter.

Scouts. Every Thursday during school term time, 7pm. Gosforth Scout Hut. Contact Jackie Harper 019467 27211.

West Cumbria Guild of Model Engineers meetings. Second Wednesday every month. Harrington Fishing and Sailing Club, 7.30pm. Visitors welcome. Details: 019467 28938.

Gosforth Parish Council is happy to accept donations for advertisements placed in the Gosforth Newsletter.

The rate is £10 for a black & white quarter-page, £20 for half page and £40 for a full page. A colour full page is £60, and £30 for half-page.

Contact: Gillian Jackson on 25730 or 25800

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Mr A. Jacob 25356

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Mr J.T. Norman 25646 (home)

01946 841413 (work)

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