

Grasmere

Parish Magazine

October 2020
and
November 2020

MAGAZINE INFORMATION

Editorial Policy

Grasmere Parish Magazine is produced bi-monthly by St. Oswald's PCC and is edited by Paul and Kay Adkins. The name of the author appears below each item. The views expressed are those of the author and any issues covered reflect that person's views. Having said this, the magazine is produced by the PCC on behalf of the community and therefore the Editors and PCC reserve the right to operate discretion in what is acceptable to be included. Please see the website for our full policy and copyright notice.

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This edition's front cover features the flowers on John and Vi Harrison's wall at Sykeside above Dove Cottage, always a delight at this time of year.

The God who's trying to get our attention

There is a story in the Book of Exodus often referred to as 'Moses and the burning bush' (Exodus 3.1-12). Putting it simply, Moses (although he was an Israelite) had been adopted and brought up as an Egyptian aristocrat. On discovering more about his real background and witnessing the hardships that 'his' people were experiencing, he thought he would take matters into his own hands.

Unfortunately, his attempts at leadership went badly wrong. He ended up murdering an Egyptian and had to flee for his life. When we pick up the story, we find him looking after his father-in-law's sheep in the region of Midian. "So much for the great leader!" we are supposed to think.

The turning point for Moses came when, as he's tending the sheep, he sees a bush in flame and he thinks to himself, "I'll go and take a closer look". In a moment of wry humour, we're told, "When the Lord saw that Moses had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush".

The fundamental thing to grasp about this story is that, whilst Moses thought he was left to his own devices, as the writer of Exodus tells us, the Lord God already knew how bad things were for his people Israel (Exodus 2.24). In other words, this meeting at the burning bush is a turning point because the Lord God is effectively saying, "at last I've got his attention! Now I can tell him that I know... More importantly, now I can tell him what I'm going to do about it".

This is the point where Moses takes his shoes off. He's conscious of being on Holy Ground. He expresses reverence and he physically slowed down. After all it's hard running on stony ground in your bare feet!

In fairness, of course, Moses was a typically blue-blooded chap who thought of himself as one 'born to lead'. Moses sensed he was bred to make a difference and it was humbling to realise that he wasn't as in control of events as he thought.

However, any of us who are like him, who are at our happiest when trying to fix things (and people!) and who like to feel we have some hold on what's happening, will I'm sure experience the same kind of frustration from time to time.

But these are the moments when, if we're wise, (and we're listening to what happened to Moses) we'll see our crisis point or wilderness experience as God's moment with us. Bluntly put: it's when we learn the wisdom of standing aside in reverence, that the Lord God can finally get our attention.

This, is why the writer C.S Lewis referred to suffering as "God's megaphone". He knew, as Moses discovered, that for much of the time the things which trouble or

burden us are already well known to God and He knows what He is about. He's just trying to get our attention.

This is how what we call 'Salvation' often seems to work. The work of God is not so much what *we* do but something we are 'caught up' in. We have our part to play but it is always in response to him. In other words, at the burning bush, Moses drops all attempts to do things his way and finds himself drafted into God's way of doing things..... God's way of doing life.

Every blessing, *David*

Remembering our Loved Ones

Our annual service of Prayers for the Faithful Departed will be on Sunday 1st November at 11.00am. If you would like a friend or loved one remembered by name at this service, please add their name to the list which will be available in church from the middle of October.

St. Oswald's Church re-opened

We're extremely pleased to report that we've been allowed to gather again for worship on Sundays from the beginning of August. The appropriate social measures are being observed and we look forward to the time when we can resume singing! With regard to the daily opening of the building, the Official Guidance continues to change, so the notice outside Church states that we will endeavour to open our Holy Place as much as possible, and we ask for your understanding whenever you may find it closed. At time of going to press we're opening the doors on weekdays from approximately 9.00 to 16.00. Our thanks to those who help with this. On Fridays the Church is set aside for use by the School.

The numbers visiting St. Oswald's have been extremely high, which is wonderful. A large proportion of these people are taking the opportunity to complete a small slip of paper asking for prayer, which we gladly do on Sunday morning. Some of the matters they are bringing to us are intensely moving. *David.*

WI News

Cecilia Campbell was our speaker in August, on Zoom. Many people know Cecilia from her time in Grasmere. She has been living back in Sweden for two years. Using beautiful photos, Cecilia compared her life in Grasmere and Sweden. It was lovely to see her - and a brief appearance by son Luke too!

In September we were treated to a talk about Roy Orbison by Bill Powell, illustrated with music, photos and film. It was really enjoyable! Bill is an experienced speaker, in huge demand in normal times. He was happy to have the chance to practice his Zoom talk with us. Thanks to Myra for arranging this.

Thursday 10th September was Westmorland County Show Day. This was cancelled, but our Federation took part in the Alternative County Show, asking members to enter in just four categories. We are delighted to report that in the Art category Jennifer Hardisty won 1st prize and Jane Caven won 3rd. In the Face Mask category Jo Kieft won 1st. Huge congratulations to them, and many thanks to Louise Sykes for encouraging and organising everyone. In recent years we haven't entered the competitions, but after winning two out of four categories and getting lots of positive feedback for all our entries we are encouraged to make a serious effort if the show is back to normal in 2021.

We have decided to keep running our Grasmere Rambles on the fourth Thursday of each month, doing this in the best way that we can to comply with current Government regulations. All welcome to join us (not just members), meet 2pm on Moss Parrock - socially distanced as required.

Our "Cheerful Chats" on Zoom continue every other Thursday at 2pm. We enjoy dropping in to swap news and ideas, suggestions about what to watch on TV, films to see, books to read etc. As it seems likely we can't restart our meetings for some time this is a great way to keep in touch. You don't have to be a member to join these chats, and new members are very welcome.

If you would like to join the WI at this point you can do so for the fee of just £10.75 which will cover you until the end of March. This is a special rate due to the Covid restrictions. You'll then be able to join our brilliant lively members' WhatsApp group!

Our next meeting is Thursday 8 October at 2pm. Libby Dixon is talking to us about Pilates, and we'll be trying some seated Pilates moves. You'll need a dining chair in view of the screen and a bit of space to twist around in. Not to be missed!

Our AGM will take place on Thursday 12 November. Members will receive more information by email nearer the time. *Sue Dixon*

Knit and Nat

We will be continuing to keep in contact with each other on zoom and WhatsApp for the moment but if anything changes I will put a notice on the board outside Barneys. Our meetings are the second and fourth Tuesdays each month at 3pm. The numbers of participants vary but it is proving to be a useful way to share ideas and knitting patterns as well as keeping in touch. At our last meeting one of the group wasn't confident about knitting mittens; as well as reassuring her that they were not complicated, I was able to send out a photograph of a pattern and by 7pm she sent back a photo of a completed mitten!

Following a write up in 'Around the District' in the Westmorland Gazette, I have received five pairs of children's gloves; we will pass them on to the organisers of the Shoe Box appeal. Our meetings recently have generated some inventive ideas for useful items for filling shoeboxes and where to buy them.

As you may imagine, we do not limit ourselves entirely to nattering about knitting, we have had a wide range of topics recently, including using up the apple harvest and sharing of recipe ideas; with some inventive and tasty results. There was also some sharing of the apples themselves which were gratefully received by people who do not have an apple tree growing near them.

As usual, if anyone reading this article would like to join our zoom meetings please ring and I will include you in the message we send around with details.

Christine Batey

Allan Bank

Allan Bank house and grounds remain closed. However, we are optimistic that we may be able to reopen in the near future, possibly with a booking system.

Given the National Trust has lost over two hundred million pounds during lockdown I am doing my bit to raise funds for the National Trust. You can find a link to my Justgiving page: Elaine's swimming for the National Trust - <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/elaine-taylor30>

I may not be the fastest, the most daring or the fittest swimmer in the Lakes but I'm doing my best!

With best wishes, stay safe, *Elaine Taylor*

Grasmere Red Squirrels

Reds: Overall our reds are doing well this year with kits from second litters appearing regularly. There were more sightings than usual in the central village area during lockdown. No sightings from the Helmside/Town Head area.

We do the annual population census in September, so do tell us how many reds you have seen in a specific location, both the number seen simultaneously and additional individuals you can identify.

Greys: There has been a relatively high number so far this year and we are about to enter the autumn peak period to the end of October. Please keep a lookout for them.

IF YOU SEE A GREY (or a sickly looking red) ANYWHERE AROUND GRASMERE PLEASE TELL US IMMEDIATELY *with an exact description of the location and the time it was seen – don't leave it till tomorrow!*

- Text David Birkett or
- Text Stuart Dickson
- Phone Trevor Cooper, Jane Cooper or Stewart Sutcliffe 35263 and 07817 326524.
- If still no response email grasmerersg@gmail.com and we'll pick it up when we look at the photos from the cameras.

Many thanks to everyone who has contacted us with local sightings – especially greys! – they are really helpful.

Funding: Unfortunately the 2020 Grasmere Gallop has been cancelled. I will report on the funding situation later in the year.

If you would like to donate to the conservation of the red squirrels in Grasmere, please send me a cheque or use a collection box located in shops in Grasmere, or you can buy postcards of red squirrels from Sam Read bookshop.

We are pleased to hear from anyone who wants to sponsor the group, help monitoring local woodlands, or are willing to have a collecting box in your hotel or business. By contributing to the group you are helping the red squirrels to survive. All contributions are most welcome – thank you.

If you would like to receive our email newsletters please email grasmerersg@gmail.com

Stewart Sutcliffe, Grasmere Red Squirrel Group

Rushbearing

Long stitch Tapestries and Knitted Banner

11 of the tapestries are now with the Wordsworth Trust, and we eagerly await the other 4 to be finished as soon as possible. The 11 are framed to be mounted on the walls of the Learning Centre at Town End, and we thank Jeff Cowton for kindly becoming the custodian of these legacies and spots of time in Wordsworth's life.

We have been very pleasantly pleased, if somewhat surprised, that the daffodil banner in Moss Parrock is still up and being photographed by many of the visitors to the village this summer. Weather permitting it will come down in October to be cleaned and dried, before also being presented to the Wordsworth Trust for their use.



Podcast on Grasmere and its Rushbearing

Exciting news! Jessica Toft, a young Cumbrian now living in Lancaster, is using her lockdown to research mythology, vernacular architecture, history and the social history of villages throughout the county. I am working with her on an oral history of my part in Rushbearing. This should be complete early next year, watch for the links on social media and in the Magazine. *Carrie Taylor*.

School News

The last few months have been very interesting, if your profession is 'education'. We have found ourselves part of a national (international) situation which has made people wonder:

- Can some (or all) education be carried out perfectly well at home?
- Can some (or all) education be delivered via online platforms?
- What is the capacity of parents to support education?
- What builds children's academic confidence and ability?
- Given all of the above, what is the point of schools?

I thought it might be interesting to share with you what we've found out, in Grasmere. So this news is in two parts: 1. What we did, 2. What we found out.

What we did

On March 18th 2020 all schools were closed in response to Covid 19.

'At home' education began. For us at Grasmere this meant sending out planning for all the subjects, differentiated at the right level for the children, and made accessible for parents. The teachers were very creative in the way they provided support. We scheduled it all to go out regularly, to try to replicate the routines we have at school. Very quickly, our educational offer developed, and became personalised. Every family's context is different, and so each family needed different support. We printed things for those without printers, provided resources (laptops, exercise books, paper, paints, glue etc), bought 'workbooks', had long conversations with parents and children, set up 'Whatsapp' groups for Years 5 & 6, so that they could share work with their teacher in real time, (e.g. they sent a photo of their work, or the 'problem' to their teacher, who immediately responded.) Some children needed phone or video contact with teachers, so the teachers started providing video explanations for many lessons. We have an 'online platform' where we can share documents, videos, photos etc back and forwards between staff and families, securely. It has a chat capability which has an informal, confidential feel. It's not as good as a conversation 'at the school gate', but it was very helpful. We all kept track of which families we had talked to / had contact with, how and when. We triangulated this information, so that I could monitor anyone who needed additional support.

It was both unnerving and inspiring, knowing that everyone was doing their best to keep our school community going, in their isolated houses. Teachers were making videos of themselves, having tidied their kitchen tables (at first this was deeply embarrassing but they're used to it now). Parents were asking questions

they'd never asked before, about nitty-gritty small step learning. Children were working really hard! Lots of protocols were being hurriedly re-written, just to make sure that we could all keep in touch. My mobile phone became the school's phone. Some teachers' personal contacts were shared with their parents to enable 'Whats App'. During this period I have been so impressed by the pragmatism and generosity of the teachers, and by the positivity and determination of our parents and children. That got us all through the first three or four weeks quite nicely... But by the time we got to the May half term holiday parents and staff were reporting difficulties with motivation. We had been planning for re-opening from the day we closed, and had already tracked down some marquees, as we knew we would probably have to spread the children out as much as possible. We are very grateful to the Westmorland County Show, who leased us tents at a very reasonable rate.

When we were told we could re-open for certain year groups we were delighted. The year groups chosen seemed very strange. Nursery and Reception are by far the most risky year groups to have back in school. Anyone who has followed us on Facebook during this time will have seen that our older children have physically distanced beautifully, and that Reception and Nursery just can't maintain physical distancing consistently. The DFE guidance recognizes that they cannot be expected to physically distance. It also says that school staff should not wear PPE. So I do understand why a lot of school staff in other schools felt unable to safely return to work. Our staff decided to give it a go, given the risk-reduction of being in large marquees, staying completely outside as much as possible, and the raft of other measures we put in place to minimize risk.

Re-opening for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 went very well, and then we were told that there was no expectation that schools should open for anyone else before September. Poor children! Poor parents! Poor teachers... Of course we were going to open. We decided that the most important thing was to get everyone back into school for a month before the end of term, unless they were shielding, in which case we would continue to support them at home. Because the children had to be so spaced out, and our groups had to be so small, we were doubling our staffing to open for everyone. So we just opened for mornings. In the afternoon the full time staff looked after the home learners. The part time staff went home and fell asleep. It is surprisingly exhausting trying to keep children safe from an invisible virus. We averaged 88% whole school attendance for the last four weeks of term. Some families are obviously still shielding, and we have kept in close contact with them. Massive thanks are due to Grasmere Co-op who have kept us stocked with free fruit while the government free fruit scheme wasn't operational.

What we found out

The evidence is being collected from all over the country, to try to find out what we have learnt about 'education' from the past few months. So far, the evidence we have collected in Grasmere suggests that:

- Some education can be carried out at home, and schools can help to provide relevant education to each child, so long as there is a detailed knowledge of that individual child, and there is trust between parent and teacher. We are well prepared now for any future local lock-downs, and have some newly learnt tools which we will use to enhance our regular education offer.
- Parents' capacity is widely varied. Some feel comfortable 'teaching'; others don't. For some, the parent / child relationship gets in the way if the going gets tough educationally.
- Children's confidence has increased with lots of precious time with one or both parents. We have noticed that lots of children are more eloquent (chatty) and keener to engage. They are very 'solid' in themselves.
- Children had time to appreciate the natural world, and to live at a slow, calm pace. They have written beautifully about the wonders which they noticed in their gardens and our lovely area, during lockdown.

Although their confidence has improved in some ways, in other ways some children's mental health has suffered from a lack of social engagement outside their family. One child spoke of 'the pit of shame' when it was announced that four year groups could go back to school, but not hers. Several of the children spoke of 'not feeling good enough' during lockdown. Children often blame themselves when things are tense around them, so this is not surprising, but it is very sad.

It appears that schools are important, because at school a child learns that they have a value beyond the family unit. The family unit is the crucial beginning. It is where we first learn who we are, but then school validates our individual skills and interests. School shows us how our abilities can earn us a living; can give us a role as competent adults in wider society; can find us friends, partners, colleagues. Some of the children learnt exceptional well academically during lockdown, but even so, they craved validation from their known and loved teachers and peers. Hearing their parents say 'well done' was great, but they also wanted more. Many adults have been missing work too; that validation of purpose, those social contacts with colleagues. So it shouldn't surprise us that children need this too. They don't live just to be entertained and exercised: they are young human beings who crave an 'important' place in the world. Our school

exists to make sure that every child knows that he or she is important. Unique, irreplaceable, important. A child's life today is the foundation of their future.

Can learning be moved online, and face-to-face teaching got rid of?

No! From the earliest times of written knowledge, there has been the opportunity for personal study. And from those earliest times groups have got together with a teacher to have that written knowledge explained, in a group setting. The knowledge we can now provide to a student at home comes in more formats than just a written parchment. Our children have had video lessons, step by step online demonstrations, links to the world's galleries and museums... etc. And yet all our families (and those of the nation) were reporting a drop in motivation by the end of their home schooling. Why?

Without daily classroom interaction, children may be able to plough through work, but many began to struggle to see the inherent value of it. School has built-in 'mini goals' which give the children a feeling of purpose in their learning. "Let's get to grips with this before playtime." "Do we understand more than we did at registration about ...?" "You'll need to understand this bit, before we go on to... next week." At primary school the connections to the world of work are not obvious, but they are there all the time. You need to be able to seize a task, wrestle with it, complete it, check it. We're training children to do this, in a team context, which is what most humans face in their employment settings of the future.

The buzz of interactive learning is priceless and cannot be replicated online. Reading information at a desk by yourself, and then answering questions at a desk by yourself, does not necessarily encourage deep learning. Children were jumping to conclusions, giving up quickly if they thought they 'didn't get it', saying it was 'too hard' or 'too easy'. With a talented teacher's external challenge, the engagement with the work becomes a totally different thing. "Oh, I get it now..." "Oh, I thought that, but perhaps I need to change it to this..." "I absolutely do not agree, and this is why..." are all phrases which you're more likely to hear when children are learning in a group, with a teacher, than when they're puzzling alone. To become aware of yourself, it helps to see reflections and reactions of others. Children become aware of their individuality, and able to express their own opinions, by mixing with others. At school there are lots of other opinions, skills, talents and difficulties. As there are in society. To create a healthy happy adult, we need to give a child real interactions with a mix of people in his or her life.

Physicality does matter. As a teacher you can't wander over during a 'zoom' lesson and casually point to a part of a child's work which they need to look at

again. You can't give a private 'well done' smile. You can't just go and stand next to them, as emotional support, whilst they battle with something tricky. You can't spot the drift of attention. All of these tiny interactions, and many more, are what makes a classroom work. It's what supports the children's emotional ability to learn, which is inextricably linked to their ability to learn cognitively.

Well that is what I currently *think* we have learnt over the past few months!

Jo Goode

This article first appeared online only in our previous edition. It makes some important points and we felt it deserved wider circulation. Eds.

Events at Wordsworth Grasmere

Back in the spring, we were getting ready to celebrate William Wordsworth's 250th birthday with the opening of the newly reimagined Dove Cottage and by welcoming you to the Jerwood Centre for talks and poetry readings. At the end of March, we found ourselves setting aside these plans and, along with the rest of you, experiencing the year as it unfolded. It is with huge pride and delight that we are finally able to open the door to Dove Cottage. We sincerely hope that you will take advantage of the free entry for local residents and come and enjoy the Wordsworths' home with us.

This autumn and winter we have made the decision to move all our events online. We will miss hosting you in the Jerwood Centre, and in our new Learning Space, but we hope that you can join in from the safety and comfort of your own homes. Some of you will now be old hands at digital events. For some of you there are new experiences ahead. We hope that all of you have a fantastic time.

One of our most-loved traditions is our annual poetry reading with **Simon Armitage**. This year we have invited him to take over Dove Cottage for an exclusive poetry performance, bringing to life the house that Wordsworth lived in 200 years ago. Join in on 1st October for this one-of-a-kind, online only event.

In our new conversations with **Disparate Romantics**, we are inviting experts on the Romantic era from all over the world to tell us all about the exciting things they are up to. We will be exploring their thoughts on everything Wordsworthian, from poetry and artefacts to nature and the modern world, as well as finding out about their new books and research.

8th October: **Professor Sir Jonathan Bate**, author of *Radical Wordsworth* and presenter of the BBC Radio 4 series 'In Wordsworth's Footsteps'.

22nd October: **Professor Stephen Gill**, author of *William Wordsworth: A Life*.

12th November: **Dr Kerri Andrews**, author of *Wanderers: A History of Women Walking*.

26th November: **Professor Robert Morrison**, author of *The Regency Revolution*.

3rd December: **Professor Saeko Yoshikawa**, author of *William Wordsworth and Modern Travel*

10th December: **Professor Nick Mason**, editor of the Romantic Circles edition of William Wordsworth's *Guide to the Lakes*.

Discover Poetry is a lively group hosted by poet Polly Atkin, and next meets on 15th October and 19th November. Share your thoughts and ideas about a selection of classic and contemporary poems inspired by the changing seasons – as well as a wildcard poem reflecting on current events.

Dove Cottage Poets is an informal poetry-writing group that meets for conversation, collaboration, and friendly critique. Meetings range from member-led sessions on a particular theme or technique to sharing poems that members have written or enjoyed. They next meet on 1st October and 5th November.

Find out more and book these events on our website at: wordsworth.org.uk
Hannah Catterall, Events Officer, Wordsworth Grasmere

Lunchtime Organ Concert - Kendal Parish Church

On Friday 30th October at 12.30 p.m. there will be a free Organ Recital at Kendal Parish Church. The programme will include music by Bach, Beethoven, Dubois and my own Corona Fantasia (composed during lockdown). *Ian Hare*

Lakes Parish Newsletter

This Newsletter is produced to inform the residents of the Parish about the work of the Parish Council over the last few months and to inform you of the role undertaken by unpaid Parish Councillors on your behalf. The Parish Council welcome any feedback from this Newsletter and any contributions that people would like to make to the next one.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Unfortunately because of the Covid-19 emergency all meetings of the Council were placed in abeyance. With Government restrictions in place on the number of people able to gather together, this meant the Council were unable to meet from March until July. All Council business, including Planning, was transacted by email and the Clerk was granted emergency powers to deal with urgent issues. Fortunately with the easing of restrictions we were able to meet in July, albeit in the open air at White Platts Recreation Ground, observing social distancing and with all sanitising procedures in place. At the time of writing the next meeting is on 28th September and by the time you read this we may well have achieved this using virtual reality technology. Who knows when this will end and some kind of normality can return. As long as Ambleside Library remains closed then the Council Office will not be available to the general public however contact details for the Clerk are always available on the Library door.

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES AND OTHER ISSUES

In March, your Parish Council found itself in a potentially serious financial situation with the onset of the Virus. Initial assessments were that we would lose over £70k income from our Toilets and White Platts operations. No Government grants were available to offset this loss as the Parish Council did not qualify for any of the reliefs implemented for the rest of the country. However, in July, the restrictions on opening White Platts were lifted and, to date, we have had a successful summer. It is hoped that we can at least break even and not sustain the losses that were anticipated in March. Toilet income crashed too and, to date, is approximately £20k less than a normal year. The Council will receive a full report with the 2021/22 budget high on its list of priorities. We will also have to take a close look at where we are once the White Platts season draws to a close at the end of October. One of the big successes of the past few months is that the Parish Council has been able to keep open the public conveniences in Ambleside and Grasmere. This was entirely due to our foresight in providing contactless entry approximately 18 months ago. This meant that we did not have to handle any coin. The Council contractor for the toilets put an enhanced cleaning regime in place which meant that we were able to stay open. I am given to understand that we were almost the only Local Authority in the Country who kept their public toilets open. We were complimented by the Lake District National Park and other agencies who had workers in the field and out in the area. Local people with urgent medical and toilet needs out for their daily exercise, with no pubs or café toilets available, also complimented the Council for their foresight. We

were able to open Chapel Stile toilets too, once we were able to reach an agreement with Langdale Estates on the cleaning and sanitising of the block.

There has been a lot of controversy in the press and locally on the implementing of Covid-19 restrictions within Grasmere and Ambleside. At one point Grasmere was going to become a one way system, however, after local consultation, this was dropped. In Ambleside the controversy rumbles on. Proposals for restricted parking at the top of Compston Road and in Lake Road to enable pavement widening were considered by the Council but rejected by a significant majority after listening to representations from both the business community and local residents. Lakes Parish Council do not only represent Ambleside, but also the remainder of 52 square miles of Lakeland containing villages, houses and hamlets. The Council felt that if parking restrictions were introduced it would cause difficulty for elderly and disabled parishioners who need to drive into town to go to the Chemists, Building Society or shops. It also felt that, historically, Ambleside has narrow pavements in different areas of the town that are impossible to change. Other suggestions put forward included traffic lights on the A591 near the Apple Pie, a one way system on each side of the road near Apple Pie, weather shelters, road markings, pavement markings, banners and signage. The Parish Council does not have the power to implement any of these measures but did make representations to the District Council.

One interesting scheme that is progressing is the replacement of the old toilet block in Rothay Park adjacent to the new play area and the Parish Centre. The District Council has allocated a capital spend of £50k to this scheme that will be matched by your Parish Council. With the creation of the new highly popular play area the existing block just cannot cope with the demand. The scheme is now at the planning and design stage. It will include a 'Changing Places' facilities to enable disabled people to fully participate in Park events. Electricity will have to be provided from Vicarage Road as the existing block has no electric to it.

The Council continues to function with Robin Lees, our Parish Handyman, sorting out the litter in the Parish and Peter Ross, our Parish Steward, looking after the flower beds at Waterhead and taking on those tasks that the principal authorities do not see as important but your Council do. The observant among you may have seen that the sign in Ambleside at the bottom of Wansfell Road, telling drivers to filter into the right hand lane, has now been moved to a more prominent position in the hope that our visitors will help traffic flow in Rothay Road and not just sit there waiting for a gap in the traffic from Borrans Road/Clappersgate.

So there we have it. Hopefully we can all get back to some normality before too long but in the meantime please observe social distancing and Stay Safe.

Michael Johnson Lakes Parish Clerk

Grasmere Village Society

We continue to live in difficult and worrying times. In an effort to regain some normality the GVS committee met during September in real life for the first time since February. This was thanks to Lee Rollitt who has provided a Covid compliant environment in the Reading Rooms, where we meet. The meeting was constructive and useful and we all enjoyed the face to face contact and interaction.

Zoom has provided a virtual alternative to actual meetings and the GVS is about to attempt a large Zoom meeting. This comes about because the Charity Commission requires us to hold an Annual General Meeting. Our deadline this year is the end of October. There is no venue large enough to hold a safe, Covid compliant meeting at present but Zoom will fulfil our obligation provided that we have a minimum of 25 attendees. Accordingly the AGM is scheduled for **8pm on Tuesday 20th October**. Further details will be sent to members via email and we hope that as many of you as possible will join the meeting.

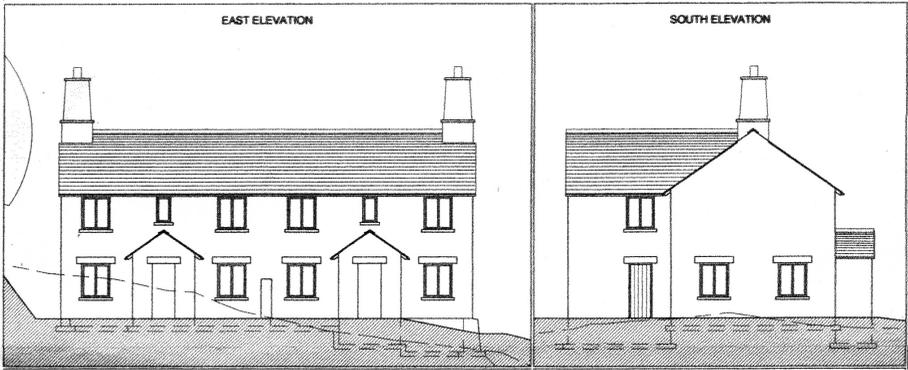
Probably for the last time, a mention of the Broadgate Meadow playground. It's open! A low key ribbon cutting ceremony took place during August and the fun has begun. The area is being well used by both locals and visitors. The feedback so far has been positive and the equipment provides for a variety of ages. My eight grandchildren have all spent time there and have given it their seal of approval! There is a sizeable grassy area between the zipwire and the other play items and it is planned to install a couple of picnic tables and benches there.

There has been a good response to the request for people to renew their membership and numbers are now very healthy. However, if you are not a member and would like to join, or if you have not yet renewed, Will Clark would love to hear from you. Annual membership for adults costs the princely sum of £1, although additional voluntary donations are always welcome.

If anybody has any issues in or around the village that they would like the GVS to address please contact myself or any committee member. Now that the playground is up and running we are looking for our next project.

The next committee meeting is on Tuesday 13th October commencing at 8pm.

Nick McCraith (Vice chairman)



New Cottages at Cragfoot, near Grandy Close

Thanks to the great generosity of the late Joan Nicholson the Lakeland Housing Trust is currently building a pair of 3 bedroom cottages on land bequeathed to the Trust by Joan, whose generosity has also enabled the Trust a few years ago to acquire two of the recently constructed properties at Broadgate in Grasmere.

The late Shelagh Griffin of Kelbarrow has also left the Lakeland Housing Trust a handsome bequest which will go towards the cost of the new pair of cottages currently under construction, and it has been suggested that one of them should be called Griffin Cottage in her memory; she was for some time a Trustee herself of the Lakeland Housing Trust.

When completed the cottages will be let to local people at affordable rents.

Laurence Harwood

*Lakeland Housing Trust can be contacted at 36 Finkle Street, Kendal, LA9 4AB
or via their website: thelakelandhousingtrust.co.uk*

CALENDAR

October 2020

1 Thu	14:00	Zoom	Dove Cottage Poets
1 Thu	17:00	Eventbrite	Simon Armitage in Dove Cottage
4 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Trinity 17: Sunday Celebration
8 Thu	14:00	Zoom	WI
8 Thu	19:30	Zoom	Disparate Romantics Jonathan Bate
11 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Trinity 18: Sunday Celebration
13 Tue	15:00	Zoom	Knit & Nat
13 Tue	20:00		GVS committee meeting
15 Thu	19:30	Zoom	Discover Poetry
18 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Trinity 19: Sunday Celebration
20 Tue	20:00		GVS AGM
22 Thu	14:00	Moss Parrock	Grasmere Ramble
22 Thu	19:30	Zoom	Disparate Romantics: Stephen Gill
25 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Trinity 20: Sunday Celebration
27 Tue	15:00	Zoom	Knit & Nat
30 Fri	12:30	Kendal Church	Organ Recital

November 2020

1 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	All Saints/All Souls: celebration
5 Thu	14:00	Zoom	Dove Cottage Poets
8 Sun	10:50	St. Oswald's	Remembrance Sunday - note time
8 Sun			Morning Worship with
8 Sun			Act of Remembrance
10 Tue	15:00	Zoom	Knit & Nat
12 Thu			WI AGM
12 Thu	19:30	Zoom	Disparate Romantics Kerri Andrews
15 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	2nd before Advent: Sunday celebr.

19 Thu	19:30	Zoom	Discover Poetry
22 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Christ the King: Sunday celebr.
24 Tue	15:00	Zoom	Knit & Nat
26 Thu	14:00	Moss Parrock	Grasmere Ramble
26 Thu	19:30	Zoom	Disparate Romantics: Robert Morri
29 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Advent Sunday Celebration

December 2020

6 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Advent 2: Sunday Celebration
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Remembrance Sunday

As we go to press we hope very much to hold Morning Worship with an Act of Remembrance on Sunday 8th November at 10.50am and that the traditional wreath laying will follow at 12.15pm. We are awaiting National Church and Government guidance and any alterations and guidelines will be posted at Church, on Facebook and our websites.

Grasmere Fellowship

Normally I would be welcoming you to a new season with some, hopefully, interesting speakers. Unfortunately due to the current situation we have neither a venue or permission to hold gatherings. Therefore, unfortunately there will be no meetings before Christmas. If we can squeeze in a meeting or two after Christmas we will do our best to do so. In the meantime keep safe and we look forward to meeting again as soon as we are able. *David Dodgson*

I think perhaps we should stop for a moment to bless being in this lovely village, Grasmere.

Slowly many visitors are returning.

The church is open some of the time.

The churchyard has been mowed to see the grave stones.

WW can be found there.

The shops and restaurants and hotels are coming back to normality and hair styles less long.

Thank you all, God bless *Kay Adkins*

Food Bank Update

As always the food bank is there for you. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need anything, even in the short term. It is all managed in confidence.

Kind donations ensure every request is met. Please continue to give what you can as little things really mean a lot! Cash donations allow us to help with more than just food, such as washing machine repairs and school uniforms.

If you know anyone who might like help please message Nicola, Will or Vicky, or pop a name and phone number in the box in the Pharmacy. Thanks as always to Grasmere Co-op and Pharmacy for their continued support.

Nicola Ablitt 07725 057153

Will Clark 015394-35070 07435 596596

Vicky Hughes 07960 590531

Windermere Tools for Self Reliance



Since Coronavirus lockdown



Our supply of unwanted tools has become depleted.

If you are clearing out your garage or shed, please remember us.

Contact: Richard Beskeen for collection

WTFSR, Refurbishing Tools for use in African Communities



I've worked at the same company for many years but I've been told I'm being made redundant. What redundancy pay am I entitled to?

If you're being made redundant, there are two types of redundancy pay you could get. 'Statutory' redundancy pay is the minimum that the law says you're entitled to, or 'contractual' redundancy pay, which is extra money your contract says you can get on top of the statutory amount.

You're usually only entitled to statutory redundancy pay if you've been an employee for at least two years. It's worth asking your employer or checking your contract to see if you're entitled to more than the statutory redundancy rules allow.

Statutory redundancy pay is based on age, weekly pay and number of years in the job, up to a maximum of £538 a week. The Citizens Advice and Gov.uk websites have calculators to help work out how much you'll get. For example if you're aged 41 and over, you'll get 1.5 week's statutory redundancy pay for each full year you've worked, up to a maximum of 20 years' service.

If your employer offers a suitable alternative job, but you refuse to take it without good reasons, they can refuse to pay your redundancy. You won't get statutory redundancy pay if you've been employed for less than two years, are self-employed or are in certain jobs like the armed forces or police (though you may be entitled to contractual pay).

If you've been furloughed, the law now says that your redundancy pay should be worked out using your usual wages, even if you were paid 80% while you were furloughed. However, statutory redundancy pay still limits a week's pay to £538.

If your employer has told you that your redundancy pay will be based on your furlough rate of pay, you could explain to the employer that isn't what the Gov.uk website says about redundancy pay, or contact your nearest Citizens Advice.

South Lakes Citizens Advice is still delivering a service. Free, confidential advice and help is available on any aspect of debt, benefits, housing, employment, consumer or any other problems.

How to access:

Call 015394 46464 - this is being staffed from 9:30 – 2pm

Adviceline: 03444 111 444

email advice via our website www.southlakescab.org.uk

Help to Claim (Universal Support): 0800 144 8 444

South Lakes Citizens Advice is a registered charity, No: 1118656 and company limited by guarantee, No: 6113551. FRN: 617574

CONTACTS

St Oswald's Parish Church **Church Stile, Grasmere LA22 9SW**

Priest-in-charge: The Rev. David Wilmot
St. Mary's Vicarage, Ambleside Road, Windermere LA23 1BA
Tel: 07305 777113 email: rev.grasmererydal@hotmail.com

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals - please contact David

Wardens: Mrs Sonia Rickman, Tel: 015394 35603
email: sonia.rickman@yahoo.com

Mrs Helen Bunfield

Treasurer: Mr John Rickman

Organist: Mr Ian Hare MA MusB 017684 83886 ian.c.hare@outlook.com

Church Website: stoswaldsgrasmere.uk

Other church contacts

Rydal St. Mary's Churchwarden Pam Coates 015394 32449

Methodist Minister: Deacon Maggie Patchett, 1 Applerigg,
Patterdale Road, Windermere LA23 1EW Tel: 015394 42971
Email: deaconmaggie@slakesmethodist.org.uk.

Roman Catholic Priest:

Father Kevan Dorgan, Our Lady's Church, Lake Road, Windermere,
LA23 2EQ. Tel: 015394 43402

Mass 9.30am every Sunday at Mater Amabilis, Ambleside

Quaker - Friend In Residence:

Terry Winterton. Glenthorne Quaker Centre & Guest House, Easedale
Rd, LA22 9QH Tel: 015394 35389 email; info@glenthorne.org

URC Minister:

The Revd. Martyn Coe, Carver Church, Windermere, LA23 2BY
Tel: 01539 533223

Central Lakes Mission Community

Rev. Beverley Lock 33205 reverend.beverley@gmail.com
Rev. John Dixon 36301 jjcedixon@btinternet.com

wordsworth

GRASMERE

Dove Cottage • Garden-Orchard • Café • Open Saturday - Wednesday



The reimagined Dove Cottage, Grasmere home of William Wordsworth, will transport you back to a period of 'plain living and high thinking'.

The sights, sounds and smells bring to life the bustling family home the Wordsworths would have known over 200 years ago.

In this humble Lakeland cottage, you can feel how a unique combination of people and place came together and changed poetry forever.

Numbers for each Dove Cottage visit are limited to ensure you have a relaxed experience. Tickets must be pre-booked at wordsworth.org.uk Grasmere residents get free entry.

Dove Cottage 10am-5.30pm
Café 10am-4.30pm

Follow us at

Wordsworth Grasmere

