

Grasmere Parish Magazine

April and May
2021



MAGAZINE INFORMATION

Editorial Policy

Grasmere Parish Magazine is produced bi-monthly by St. Oswald's PCC and is sponsored by Wordsworth Grasmere. 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.

Copy Date

Copy date for the **June - July 2021** magazine is **18th May 2021**.

Please email your copy to the editors at: **editor@oswaldparish.news** or send it to Willow Bank, Town End, Grasmere LA22 9SH. You can also upload copy via the website.

Grasmere Parish Magazine online

Past editions of the magazine are available online at:

<https://oswaldparish.news>

You can also use the website to contact the editors or to upload copy.

Advertising in the Magazine

Yearly rates for single column ads up to 2" in the back pages. We can also usually take one or two half-page ads in the main pages of individual issues. Contact the Editors on 0300 1212587 or email: **editor@oswaldparish.news**

I remember you when...

A prominent public figure who found himself serving time in jail remarked how sad he was that his name will always be associated with that pivotal moment when he let himself and his family down.

It's an all too familiar tale. I suppose we all have to live with the way the past can come back to haunt us, just when we think we've escaped it there's always someone who comes along and says, 'I remember you when'; and no matter how much we pretend that it wasn't really me in that 1970's kipper tie and flairs the camera is sometimes embarrassingly truthful!

To a greater or lesser degree we all live with such things but sometimes we want to protest that this is not the whole story. We want people to know that this one moment doesn't tell you everything about me and that people can and do change and grow. It's just that for some of us, the world is less than kind.

This, I believe is where our faith in the resurrection of Christ is so important. In one of his letters, St. Paul says: "So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3.1-4).

In effect, he's saying that when it comes to those things which we would rather forget, to say, 'I believe in the resurrection' means that all of my life, warts and all, is caught up in the grace and mercy of God'. Or, as Paul says, it's 'hidden with Christ in God'.

In other words, resurrection means that we don't have to pretend. We don't have to deny the past; in fact, we can live knowing that the past does not define us. What is past may indeed be true, part of us, and perhaps regrettable - but in a real sense it is gone and no longer defines or has a hold over us. It can no longer hold us back from becoming the fully alive person God calls us to be. The one pivotal moment that does matter is the resurrection of Christ, and the love of God which accepts, embraces and transforms us.

Whatever the skeletons in our closet, what matters is the pivotal moment when Christ died and rose again. To know that Jesus's death and resurrection is 'for us' is to know that we are His. No matter how unforgiving or un-forgotten others may be, we are His. This is all that matters. And we are most definitely His, no matter how many times they say, 'I remember you when...'

Happy Easter, *David*

St. Oswald's News

Re-opening Church.

You'll be aware that, Lord willing, we are looking at a slow return to an 'unrestricted' life by the summertime. Although through the current lockdown we would have been permitted to hold worship in Church, it seemed prudent not to do so. Now, in the light of the easing of restrictions, we are clearly exercised about when it might be appropriate to re-open. In short, after much thought and prayer, we shall re-open for worship on **Sunday 18th April at 11.00am.**

Unfortunately this means once again missing the Easter festivities, but I hope that you will find this appropriate.

In the meantime, as last year, I will prepare some suitable online reflections, which I hope will enable us all to mark the season prayerfully.

Annual Meeting

We recently heard that we shall be required to hold our Annual Parochial Meeting by the end of May this year. This will therefore take place after Sunday Worship on 30th May. I hope that you will be able to attend. In view of this year's unique circumstances, our 'business' will be short and to the point but since it is nonetheless required of us, we will do it to the best of our ability!

With this in mind, there will be a short PCC Meeting directly after worship on Sunday the 18th of April to approve the accounts and 'touch base' regarding other matters of importance. From that date, the Electoral Roll will be open for inspection, and to give those not currently included an opportunity to have their names added.

Garden of Remembrance

I am pleased to report that an Application to install a designated area for the interment of cremated remains against the exterior East Wall of the Church has been lodged with the DAC. They are due to consider our proposal on 22nd April. Funding for this project has been generously provided by the Friends.

Assemblies

It is lovely to be able to welcome our children to Church on Wednesday mornings in the weeks before Easter for their weekly Worship Time.,

Sundays Online

Throughout the current restrictions a weekly opportunity for Worship and Reflection will be posted on the St. Oswald's Youtube Channel. This can also be accessed via our website stoswaldsgrasmere.uk or A Church Near You achurchnearyou.com/grasmere-st-oswald

Lent Reflections

Thank you to the Administrators of the Grasmere Facebook Community Hub for kindly hosting our daily Lent Reflections. These can be accessed via Facebook and our websites. If you wish to receive these by email do contact me via: rev.grasmererydal@hotmail.com

The Faithful Departed

In recent days we have given thanks for the lives of Denis Hoare, Violet (Vi) Harrison and Lillian (Tina) Dover. Please hold them and their loved ones in your prayers.

David

From Deacon Maggie Patchett, Tourism Chaplain and Methodist Minister.

Signs of hope

Writing this at the start of February, I imagine a lot of you are wondering when all this is going to end, as you try to keep things together, both personally, as well as for your families, and for the businesses you work for or run yourselves.

The lockdown and restrictions we are all facing do take a toll on our mental health, and the sense of loss and grief can sometimes feel overwhelming.

As we move into spring, when things are starting to open up again, take time to notice all the signs of new life around you; signs of hope and of a future filled with positivity!

After Lent, Easter: Jesus demonstrating God's amazing love, for all; bringing the assurance of hope and new life in Christ.

I was looking forward to being able to see people again, to call by to say 'Hi' in person. However, I am not going to be able to do that in the same way, as I have a sabbatical for the next 3 months – March to May. (I might still be around though, as I'm not going anywhere much – at least not yet!).

The Tourism Chaplaincy has arranged for others to be available for you. If things start to get to you, do remember that sharing your anxieties often helps. Just talking things through with another (independent) person, knowing there is someone to turn to, in confidence, if you need them, might be all that is needed.

If you are struggling with loss or grief, just need to talk, or you know someone who might benefit from talking to a chaplain, you can call Rev Graham: 01229 583198 or Martin: 015394 44761

or you can pm facebook.com/lakeschaplain, or email tourismchaplain@SLakesMethodist.org.uk

and your request will be passed on to Graham or Martin.

You can also send in your prayer requests, for yourself, your friends, your family or your work. If you need a Methodist Minister, please contact Graham Ransom as above or email graham.ransom@methodist.org.uk.

While I may not be around, I will continue to hold you in my prayers. Let's continue to work together and support each other.

With love, *Deacon Maggie*.

****COVID-19 VACCINATION ANNOUNCEMENT****

We are pleased to announce Grasmere Pharmacy will be managing the new vaccine centre at Grasmere Village Hall.

People should not turn up to the site, instead they will receive a letter inviting them to book a vaccine appointment through an online NHS booking service. This is to ensure the centre does not become overrun with people dropping in.

The opening time of the vaccination site is to be announced, subject to vaccine stock being available. We will keep everyone in the loop.

For reasons of vaccine preservation and storage facilities, we will only be offering the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccination service.

RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers to help out at the vaccination site. Volunteers will be involved in marshalling car parks, registering patients when they arrive and much more, to ensure the smooth running of the service. This will be explained in detail on the day.

If you are interested, please send your name, contact number and email address to Grasmere Pharmacy Facebook Page messenger; email to: zivoon.kok@nhs.net or pop in the Pharmacy.

Stay Safe & Thank You.

We'd like to give big thanks to all individuals who have helped us to achieve this site, and Grasmere Village Hall Company for lending us the premises where the vaccine will take place. We humbly thank you for the outpouring of support for us.

Grasmere Pharmacy

WI News

Thanks to all who supported our “Team Grasmere Stepping for St Mary’s” challenge in February. Whether you stepped the 9,000 steps every day, donated, sponsored or just encouraged, you helped us to raise an amazing £14,400 for St Mary’s Hospice, Ulverston. What a wonderful community effort!

We plan further fundraising later in the year. Meanwhile, you may not know that St Mary’s has charity shops and a furniture warehouse. These are in the Ulverston/Barrow area and are currently closed. However, we are hoping to arrange for the Hospice van to come to Grasmere to collect items when Covid rules allow, so please hang on to good quality items and donate them to St Mary’s. More information at stmaryshospice.org.uk/ including details on what they can accept.

Local gardener and landscaper Jay Barker was the speaker at our March meeting. We were able to ask questions and get tips for our gardens from someone with years of experience of gardening in our area. He was a very entertaining speaker. We all learnt a lot!

At our next meeting, 2pm Thursday 8th April, we welcome Angela and Deborah from the Great Escape Cookery School. They will be demonstrating Thai cookery for us and answering our questions. This will be another great meeting!

Membership fees are now due for the year April 2021-22. This year’s rate is £44 - tremendous value for money. If you would like to join us please contact Sue Dixon or our Treasurer Elaine Webster or any of our growing number of enthusiastic members and we’ll send you the details.

We continue to meet on Zoom at 2pm every Thursday for an hour’s “Cheerful Chat” swapping news and ideas about books, films, TV programmes and staying in touch.

We hope to resume our Grasmere Rambles when restrictions are lifted, and assuming that the Government Roadmap goes to plan we hope to hold our first meeting in July at the Wordsworth Trust. Put the date in your diary, Thursday 14 July 2021! *Sue Dixon*

Knit and Nat

Knit and Nat will be holding 3pm Zoom meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays in April and May, on the 13th and 27th April, and 11th and 25th May. As we move on in the year I wonder if restrictions will be lifted sufficiently for us to hold our meetings either in the open air in someone's garden or even in the Reading Room. Wherever we are, we are happy to welcome anyone who would like to join in with our friendly chat and crafting help. Let us know if you are interested in joining us and we will include you in our login notification for where our meetings will be!

We have been busy since the last edition of the magazine, the baby blanket project proved popular and I was surprised when the deadline arrived and I counted them, twice just to be sure. The grand total was 67 which was a marvellous achievement. Thanks to one of our group, they were delivered to Barrow Hospital who were very grateful; I guess their store cupboard will be full.

Alongside the blanket project we were asked if we would be interested in knitting some flowers to decorate an area of the garden at Allan Bank ready for Easter (see Allan Bank article for opening details). At our last Zoom meeting we saw the varied selection that had been created, roses, tulips, carnations, daisies, pansies and bluebells. Some are ready to place in the ground on sticks and wire while others are strung on garlands or ready to tie onto the branches of the trees and bushes. We are looking forward to seeing them in place along with the daffodil display we created last year. *Christine Batey*

Rushbearing 2021

We are in the early stages of preparation with a weather eye on global events, and should anyone have any suggestions for widening the scope of a possible virtual Rushbearing or be willing to help out with the actual event if allowed, please note the provisional date Saturday 10th July 2020 in your diaries, set your brain into action and contact either David or one of the committee Amy Burton, Will Clark, Charlotte Ellwood or Carrie Taylor

Rest assured all on the committee will not let the Rushbearing slide into history. Have a great spring! Thanks, *Carrie*

Grasmere Village Society

As we begin to ease out of the Covid-19 lockdown there is definitely light at the end of this particular tunnel. However (spoiler alert) it is likely that this will be the end of the beginning and not the beginning of the end. Nevertheless it is exciting to contemplate the village reopening fully, and welcoming back our visitors. With Staycations being the order of the day there will be no shortage of those!

Accommodation will no doubt be at a premium and Paul Truelove alerted us to a scheme by Lowther Estates to open a “pop-up” campsite in a field at White Moss. There will be no facilities attached to this site but planning permission is not required, as these sites have been sanctioned by the LDNPA and will be allowed for a maximum of 56 days in any one year. The GVS has grave misgivings about this scheme, in particular the potential for pollution in various forms, and we are in correspondence with both the LDNPA and Lowther Estates to establish that there will be appropriate supervision and provision of waste disposal.

Last year the National Trust set out to plant 20 million trees by the year 2030. In support of this the GVS has made a donation which will allow tree planting of an area similar to the size of a football pitch. We have liaised with Neil Winder, our local NT Ranger, to ensure that our donation can be used for a local project.

Rebecca Costello of the NT is hoping to place some pollinator friendly flower planters in the village and is liaising over potential suitable sites. Moss Parrock has been suggested and also beside the Wordsworth drinking fountain where planters would enhance the fountain and also the village entrance.

GVS membership is looking healthy and at the last count we had 226 adults and 10 children. If you have not yet renewed your membership, or if you would like to join for the first time, please contact membership secretary Will Clark or any committee member. Similarly if you would like information about the society, how we came about, our aims and ambitions, and what we actually do.

The committee continue to meet monthly via Zoom and as in person meetings are still some way off we intend to hold the AGM via Zoom. This is scheduled for **7.30pm on Tuesday April 20th**. The AGM was held in similar fashion last year and was very successful. Details will be circulated nearer to the time via email. If you would like to be more involved with the society then please consider standing for the committee. New blood is always welcome.

Next committee meeting is on Tues April 13th at 8pm.

Nick McCraith (Chairman)

Editor's Note. We approached Lowther Estates and the Lake District National Park Authority for comment on the camp site. Lowther Estates did not respond. The Park Authority provided us with the following statement.

The Government grants planning permission (commonly known as permitted development rights) for various types of development to take place without needing to apply to the Local Planning Authority. One of these categories allows the temporary use of any land for any purpose for not more than (currently) 56 days in total in any calendar year, and the provision on the land of any moveable structure for the purposes of the permitted use, subject to various conditions. The landowner is intending to open a campsite in reliance upon this national permitted development right and we have no planning control over it. We anticipate that this may be a widespread issue this year and we are publishing guidance on our website. *David McGowan Head of Development Management
Lake District National Park Authority*

Allan Bank

The sun is shining as I write and the Spring flowers are emerging, providing valuable nectar to the early bumble bees.

Allan Bank's essential building project has come to a close and there is a new ceiling in Coleridge's bedroom, and repaired joists in the downstairs rooms. The House and Collections team have carried out essential conservation work on the Mountain Heritage Trust Library, which is now being returned to its ground floor room. The drainage and air circulation in the cellars have been improved, and we are hoping that this will prevent further damage from woodworm.

By the time you are reading this the gardens will have re-opened. Please check the website for further details as the days will vary. We are hoping to open the house in May, following further guidelines from the government. Do remember a free garden pass for local residents can be issued with proof of address, but we would still ask you to pre-book your visit, to help us manage capacity and keep everyone safe.

For further details please visit: nationaltrust.org.uk/allan-bank-and-grasmere
Katriona Field, Welcome Manager, Allan Bank

Wordsworth Grasmere

Nature has been a real source of comfort and respite for us all over the last year, and while we cannot open our indoor spaces yet, we are looking forward to sharing our outdoor spaces with you all again. From the 12th April (all things permitting), we will be running semi-guided tours of the Garden-Orchard and Woodland behind Dove Cottage. We have used William and Dorothy Wordsworth's original writings as a source of information and inspiration, and through their poems, letters, journals, we are working to bring the garden even closer to the way it would have been when they were living in Grasmere over 200 years ago. This is an exciting long-term project, and these tours will be a unique chance to learn about the changes that Dove Cottage Head Gardener Jane is making. The Woodland will be open to the public for the very first time, and you will be able to explore the reclaimed footpath which overlooks Dove Cottage and the garden.

As always, Grasmere residents have free entry, and we really hope to see you all soon – it has been far too long. Our wonderful Café will also be offering take-away coffees and teas, cakes, and savoury food for you to enjoy outside. We are making the finishing touches to the Museum and cannot wait to share this with you when we are able to reopen our indoor spaces. If government guidance allows, we hope this will be possible in May. The new Museum is stunning and entirely transformed, with manuscripts, books and pictures looked at in new ways, and wonderful views across the valley from the rooftop viewing station.

How do you bring Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-61), a Victorian poet concerned with social injustice, to life for a modern audience? In our latest **Disparate Romantics** talk on 22nd April Professor Fiona Sampson joins students from Baylor University, Texas, to discuss their shared ambitions in attempting to do just that. Professor Sampson has just published her new book *Two-Way Mirror: The Life of Elizabeth Barrett Browning*, and students at Baylor University have curated the online exhibition 'The Brownings in Our World'.

We are planning to run **Spring Steps!** Easter sessions for families on 15th and 16th April. Explore our springtime trail and see if you can spot the wildlife that's hiding in our gardens and woodland. Have a go at decorating your own binoculars as you play, learn, and explore nature like William and Dorothy Wordsworth.

Our 2021 contemporary poetry reading series, **“Go to the poets, they will speak to thee”**, is curated and hosted by Barrow-based poet Kim Moore. We will be listening to what poets have to say about our turbulent times, and how poetry can cross borders to challenge, delight and inspire us.



On 28th April our guest is **Nina Mingya Powles**, reading from her debut collection *Magnolia*, 木蘭.

On 26th May **Wendy Pratt** will reading from her new collection *When I Think of My Body as a Horse*.

Discover Poetry and our various poetry writing groups continue to take place on Zoom. Detailed information can be found online.

You can book free resident admission tickets, as well as register for events and local groups, on our website wordsworth.org.uk
Hannah Catterall, Events Officer, Wordsworth Grasmere

wordsworth

GRASMERE

Job vacancy: Senior Estate Worker/Estate Worker required to help improve and maintain our diverse estate.

Based in the hamlet of Town End, Grasmere we have an estate of more than twenty properties including the Grade 1-listed Dove Cottage, home of the poet William Wordsworth and a state-of-the-art museum and archive as well as a range of domestic and commercial properties. Together the estate forms one of the Lake District's leading visitor attractions.

If you are hardworking and enthusiastic with a wide range of skills including general building maintenance, landscaping and gardening we'd love to hear from you.

Find out more here www.wordsworth.org.uk/job-opportunities

Grasmere Book Group

The first book of the year, for February's meeting, was Penelope Lively's *Life in the Garden*. As with many of our reads, this proved a good source for conversation. Lively's memoir is essayistic, taking in writers she has known and their own relationship to gardening in their lives and books. Modern novelists such as Virginia Woolf and Elizabeth von Arnim feature, but so too do 'gardening pundits' such as Anna Pavord. The group as a whole enjoyed the book but there were some questions about the intended audience, and many would have liked the topics to have been expanded or developed. Avid gardeners and long-term fans of the Booker-winning author seemed the core audience.

In March we tackled a graphic novel. Having previously enjoyed discussing comic books this year we chose Guy Delisle's *Pyongyang* as an example of the kinds of non-fiction graphic novels that have been produced. Delisle's book is an account of a work trip to an animation studio in North Korea. Essentially an illustrated diary of his time, the book proved to be thought-provoking for the group. Many felt they gained less knowledge of the country than they might have hoped, and thought Delisle himself wasn't the most likeable guide. However, many also enjoyed the style of the comic. Various scenes depicting Delisle as the bemused outsider resonated with travel experiences related on the night!

Our upcoming books are as follows. Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month, at 8pm, on Zoom.

April 8th – Elizabeth von Arnim, *The Enchanted April*

May 13th – Maggie O'Farrell, *Hamnet*

June 10th – Douglas Stuart, *Shuggie Bain*

July 8th – Eley Williams, *The Liar's Dictionary*

August 12th – Nimsdai Purja, *Beyond Possible*

September 9th – Janice Hallett, *The Appeal*

October 14th – James Rebanks, *English Pastoral* or Grace Dent, *Hungry*

November 11th – Susanna Clarke, *Piranesi*

December 9th – Tanya Kirk (ed.), *Chill Tidings: Dark Tales of the Christmas Season*

We will be meeting virtually for the foreseeable future. If you'd like to be on the invite list for the book group meeting then do send an email to: dr.will.smith@me.com.

A reminder, all book group books are available from Sam Read's at 10% discount off the r.r.p.

Take care and enjoy whatever you'll be reading this Spring! *Will Smith*

LAKES PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2021

[Editors' note. This Newsletter appeared in the February - March edition of the Parish Magazine which was online-only. After discussion with the Parish Council, to ensure the widest possible circulation we are re-printing it here.]

Hello and welcome to another 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 your 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

Because of the latest Lockdown, all Parish Council Meetings are in abeyance. We did manage to have hybrid meetings in 2020, and also one in the open air at White Platts in July, which was not as successful as had been hoped. It had always been assumed that White Platts was an oasis of calm in the centre of Ambleside, but unfortunately the noise from the passing traffic was quite disruptive to a Council Meeting. We were grateful to the University for a meeting in September, and in December we held our last meeting in the Council meeting room in the Library at Ambleside. This was the most successful of all, with members of the public listening in via Microsoft Teams and able to take part in the Public Participation part of the meeting. We hope we can have our next meeting in March, but obviously no one quite knows what the situation with COVID will be by then.

PARISH COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

In normal times Lakes Parish Council generally meets twice monthly. There is a main Council Meeting early in the month and a Plans Meeting a fortnight later. Sadly we have had to adapt to the current situation with the virus, taking decisions by email with emergency powers delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman. The Council must adhere to rules adopted from the National Association of Local Councils model guidance when coming to their decisions.

LAKES PARISH HANDYMAN

Robin Lees continues his excellent work in the Parish to reach those areas which are overlooked or neglected by the principal authorities. Jobs done include litter picking hedgerows from Waterhead to Wansfell Road, Rothay Holme car park, the layby near Skelwith Bridge on the A593, work in Chapel Stile, central Ambleside lanes and hedgerows. Regular visits to Grasmere include litter picking Stock Lane and the car park. Robin refurbishes our Parish seats and also the bollards around the King Street car park in Ambleside. He has done litter picking in Clappersgate, Nook Lane, on the pathways from Borrans Road to Lake Road, Low Fold car park, Old Lake Road, Compston Street and clearance of laybys. Robin works from Dunmail Raise to Troutbeck Bridge and out to the Langdales, a huge area of responsibility. In partnership with Lowther Estates and Glasdon, we have helped alleviate the litter and dog poo problem at White Moss with the installation of two bins. Robin empties them

on a regular basis. He only works for 10 hours a week so cannot get to everything immediately. To complement the work of Robin, we have a 'Parish Steward' who works 2 days a week and undertakes heavier work throughout the Parish. Some of the jobs on his list are self seeded sapling removal including work along the Under Loughrigg road, cleaning road signs, looking after the grass and flower beds at Waterhead, de-weeding those areas of the Parish that always need attention etc. At the request of local Councillors he recently addressed the issue of leaves on the footpath between the Swan and Town End at Grasmere. If you see something that you think needs attention then please tell any Councillor or contact the Clerk and we will try to sort it out.

LAKES PARISH TOILET MUSINGS

Since we installed CCTV in our main toilets to keep an eye on the cash machines and also those who may not have the best interests of our Conveniences at heart, the number of acts of vandalism has significantly reduced. However in November we had our most expensive act of vandalism when the paddle gates in the Ladies at Moss Parrock were damaged and had to be replaced at a cost of over £1000. CCTV revealed a rather large lady, dragging a huge shopping trolley behind her, deliberately pushing through the gates and smashing one of them off the retaining bolts. Efforts to identify her have come to nothing but, if she reads this newsletter, we hope that she realises her reluctance to pay 20p to use the facilities cost the Council, and therefore the ratepayers, dearly.

We have implemented an enhanced cleaning regime in all of our public toilets and during the COVID emergency we, like the Windmill in London during WW2, never closed. The Council always took the view that, even with lockdown or restrictions, people taking exercise or working throughout the area may well need a public convenience, especially with all the cafes, pubs and hotels being closed. With the installation of contactless machines in each of the major Conveniences this has helped to avoid the hazard of viral contamination on any coin. The entry charge remains at 20p unlike some of our neighbours who charge up to 50p.

SINCE THE LAST EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER

The Parish Council continues its partnership with Cumbria County Council to do all it can to save Ambleside Library from possible closure in the future. The Council is now into its 3rd year of a 5 year Lease on the upper floor of the Library with the option to renew for a further 5 years. The Council have a modern spacious Office and a Council Chamber that can accommodate up to 50 people. The Office was open on Mondays and Fridays, mirroring the truncated Library opening hours, but with Lockdown in force at the time of writing, this is unfortunately closed to the public.

The Parish Council has come to an agreement with South Lakeland District Council to look after all the flower beds and grassed areas in the refurbished area of Waterhead. We also maintain the two seats at the entrance to Broadgate Meadow Park and the general area around those seats. Tubs in the area are also planted up. Last year at Waterhead you will have seen an improvement in the planting with perennials and

bedding plants mixing together. Our Parish Steward has gardening skills and he undertakes this work on our behalf. Last year there was a huge effort by volunteer Councillors planting daffodil and tulip bulbs. Later in the year winter pansies and violas were planted in tubs and flower beds throughout the Parish. There will be more colour next year with bedding plants that will be looked after by our Parish Steward, Peter Ross.

We have recently installed a new bus shelter opposite the Health Centre in Ambleside, as the old one was damaged by scaffolding contractors who backed into it. We recovered the cost from their insurers.

There is a new seat on Elterwater Fell near the top towards the Youth Hostel that replaces a damaged old seat in the same location. This was paid for by long time visitors to the Langdale Valley. Also, thanks to Paul and Anne Truelove there is a new seat on Loughrigg Terrace.

Those using White Platts last summer will have seen the improvements to the Crazy Golf that was beginning to look tired. Crazy Golf is the biggest single source of income at White Platts, so it is fitting we have a programme of improvement. We now have two brand new holes and seven refurbished holes. One new hole features a miniature Bridge House and on the other new hole there is a miniature Beatrix Potter's Cottage and Barn. We hope you will enjoy the upgrade and the experience. The tennis courts at White Platts have also been refurbished and look well.

PARISH BUDGETS

Last year was a year like no other as far as the Parish Council budgets go. In March, when lockdown was in place, the Council was looking at a loss of at least £70k. Fortunately we were able to open White Platts in time for the main summer season and thanks to everyone involved, we turned what might have been a disaster into a small profit. Fortunately the Council has a contingency in place for exactly this kind of event, so finances remain sound. The Council agreed the budget for 2021/22 in December and decided to increase its Precept by 1% to cover inflation. It is hard to predict how 2021 will turn out but with sound finances and a contingency in place, your Council is well placed to weather any storm.

AND FINALLY,

The Clerk to the Council, Michael Johnson, will be retiring in 2021. [The vacancy was advertised during February and the closing date has now passed.]

Michael Johnson

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman of the Council: Cllr Mrs Louise Waterhouse 015394 31182

Clerk: Michael Johnson 015394 31656

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Kelsick Road
Ambleside LA22 0BZ

Telephone/Fax 015394 31656

Email - lakesparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk

Website: amblesideonline.co.uk/parish

Grasmere Ward:

Cllr Ella Footit 015394 35918

Cllr Paul Truelove 015394 35200

Cllr Vivienne Rees 015394 35401

Rydal and Loughrigg Ward:

Cllr Gilly Hodgkinson 015394 33516

Cllr Will Clark 07919 298671

Grasmere Red Squirrels

Video: Local zoologist and keen photographer Matt Staniek has been filming in Grasmere for the past few months and created a film about Red Squirrels. Do have a look at it. Search for matt - staniek - red - squirrels on YouTube.

Book: A new e-book has just been published about red squirrel conservation called Saving the Red Squirrel. It is free of charge and can be downloaded from the Red Squirrel Survival Trust website rsst.org.uk . The section on Grasmere starts on page 141.

Reds: Overall our reds are doing well and the population survey in September showed an increase in numbers compared to 2019.

Greys: 44% more greys had to be dealt with in 2020 compared to 2019. 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 on 07775 904236 or
- Text Stuart Dickson 07980 893459
- Phone Trevor Cooper on 015394 35502, Jane Cooper 35589 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: Many thanks to everyone who has made donations over the last few months enabling us to continue our work. If you would like to contribute to the group, please send us an email. When the shops reopen the collection boxes will be accessible and you can buy postcards of red squirrels Sam Read bookshop.

We are pleased to hear from anyone who wants to sponsor the group, help monitoring local woodlands offer help, advice on purchasing their own equipment 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.

To receive our email newsletters please contact: grasmerersg@gmail.com

Stewart Sutcliffe, Grasmere Red Squirrel Group

Grasmere Sports 2021

After the disappointments we all suffered in 2020 the Sports Committee are very much hoping that the 2021 Sports will be able to take place, and planning has already started. But, as with everyone else, we are subject to the changing regulations and can't be quite sure what the year has in store for us. The Sports will go on – if we can! The latest news can be found at www.grasmeresports.com

Unfortunately, the flooding that the Sports Field has suffered in recent years has led to damage to the area behind the Pavilion in particular. Work has begun to rectify this and use up material stored at the end of the Sports Field by the mini-roundabout. This will involve machinery removing the topsoil, installation of drains and reprofiling, and will probably look quite alarming while it is going on. Hopefully we will be left with a drier, level area and will have used the excess materials from the corner of the field.

Deborah Black Sports Manager Grasmere Lakeland Sports & Show

Food Bank Update

A big thank you once again to everyone for your continued support for Grasmere Community Food Bank. In order to keep you up to date and as another way of contacting us in private we now have a Facebook page: Grasmere Community Food Bank.

If you are experiencing hardship or know anyone who might like a bit of help please message Nicola, Will or Vicky, or pop a name and phone number in the box in the Pharmacy. We are worried that we may still be missing some in need of support, so if you know of anyone please reach out to us in total confidence.

As always we are really grateful for both cash and food donations. The Coop can no longer collect cash for the food bank, but the Pharmacy does. Cash donations enable us to buy fresh produce to supplement store cupboard items. This makes a massive difference to the quality and usefulness of our parcels. Kay Adkins sells her beautiful cards at the Pharmacy to support the food bank, so please look out for those. This month we also received a generous donation of a Co-op Gift Card to help with our purchases. We are hoping to open a bank account soon so that if anyone would like to make a one off donation or regular gift please contact us.

In the last couple of months we have had a number of new requests for food parcels, this means we are short on specific items, including Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Squash, Beans & Sausage, Tinned meat, Tuna, Pasta Sauce, Curry Sauce, Chocolate Biscuits, Cheese Biscuits, Crisps, Washing powder, Washing up Liquid, Cleaning Products, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes,

Please continue to give whatever you can, it really makes a difference. Thanks as always to the Co-op and Pharmacy for their continued support.

Nicola Ablitt 07725 057153

Will Clark 015394-35070 07435 596596

Vicky Hughes 07960 590531

*Ambleside Parish Centre for support/financial advice 015394-34172 email:
admin@amblesidepc.org.uk*

Thank You

Offers of shopping, a house full of flowers, delicious food, concerned phone calls, books to read, lifts to hospital – the community of Grasmere is amazing, I have felt so well cared for and give my heartfelt thanks to so many of you. I feel so fortunate to live in a village with such a caring community. *Dee Rogers*

Grasmere Soundscape Dissertation

*We received this email via the Parish Mag website. Tom can be contacted at:
thp26@cam.ac.uk*

My name is Tom Pearson and I am an undergraduate in Geography at the University of Cambridge.

For my undergraduate dissertation I am focusing on how people think about sound and noise in the Grasmere area, and how this may have changed over time. I hope to understand the area's "soundscape" and how it is perceived by those residing in and visiting Grasmere. I think, at the moment especially, how we appreciate and understand our local environment is really important.

I would love an opportunity to get in touch with anyone to further my understanding of sound perceptions in Grasmere. *Tom Pearson*

CALENDAR

April 2021

1 Thu	14:00	Zoom	Dove Cottage Poets
8 Thu	14:00	Zoom	WI Meeting
8 Thu	20:00	Zoom	Book Group
13 Tue	15:00	Zoom	Knit & Nat
13 Tue	20:00		GVS Committee Meeting
15 Thu	10:00	Wordsworth Trust	Spring Steps
15 Thu	14:00	Zoom	WI Cheerful Chat
15 Thu	16:00	Wordsworth Trust	Spring Steps
15 Thu	19:30	Zoom	Discover Poetry
16 Fri	10:00	Wordsworth Trust	Spring Steps
	16:00		Spring Steps
18 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Easter 3 - Holy Communion
20 Tue	19:30	Zoom	GVS AGM
22 Thu	14:00	Zoom	WI Cheerful Chat
22 Thu	18:30	Zoom	Disparate Romantics
25 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Easter 4 - Holy Communion
27 Tue	15:00	Zoom	Knit & Nat
28 Wed	19:30	Zoom	Poetry Reading & Open Mic
29 Thu	14:00	Zoom	WI Cheerful Chat

May 2021

2 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Easter 5 - Holy Communion
6 Thu	14:00	Zoom	WI Cheerful Chat
6 Thu	14:00	Zoom	Dove Cottage Poets
9 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Easter 6 - Holy Communion
11 Tue	15:00	Zoom	Knit & Nat
13 Thu	14:00	Zoom	WI Cheerful Chat

13 Thu	20:00	Zoom	Book Group
16 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Easter 7 - Holy Communion
20 Thu	14:00	Zoom	WI Cheerful Chat
20 Thu	19:30	Zoom	Discover Poetry
23 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Pentecost - Holy Communion
24 Mon	11:00	St. Oswald's	Wedding
25 Tue	15:00	Zoom	Knit & Nat
26 Wed	19:30	Zoom	Poetry Reading & Open Mic
27 Thu	14:00	Zoom	WI Cheerful Chat
30 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Trinity Sunday - Holy Communion
	12:00		Annual Parochial Church Meeting

June 2021

6 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Trinity 1 - Holy Communion
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I've fallen behind on my bills and the debts are building up. Where do I start?

You've already taken a great first step by asking for help, and it's important to know you don't need to face this alone. You can contact South Lakes Citizens Advice for help.

In the meantime here are four steps you can take to get started:

- **Work out how much you owe** - Make a list of who you owe money to and add up how much you need to pay each month. If you don't have your most recent statements, contact your creditor to find out what you owe. Some creditors will have special arrangements for people with Covid-related arrears.
- **Prioritise your debts** - Your rent or mortgage, energy and council tax are called priority debts as there can be serious consequences if you don't pay them. Separate these and work out how much you owe. Again, you can ask the companies or council what support might be available during the pandemic.
- **Work out how much you can pay** - Create a budget by adding up your essential living costs, such as food and housing, and taking these away from your income. The Citizens Advice budgetting tool can help. Any money you have spare can be put towards your debts, starting with the priority debts first. If you have any money left after paying priority debts, but not enough to make your usual payments on other debts, consider getting advice on the best way for you to start getting on top of them. Or contact your creditors and offer them what you can afford to pay.
- **If you can't pay your debts** - If you've got little or no money spare to pay your priority debts or other debts, such as credit cards and loans, just contact us. It's easy, just call us **015394 46464, Adviceline: 03444 111 444**
or post an online request to us at southlakescab.org.uk

If you are struggling to pay for basics like food, seek help immediately from us. We know it can feel very daunting to deal with debt, but having a plan really helps and our team will be here to help you each step of the way.

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

***Call 015394 46464 - this is being staffed from 9:30 – 2pm
Adviceline: 03444 111 444***

***Submit a request on our website www.southlakescab.org.uk
Help to Claim (Universal Support): 0800 144 8 444***

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 Darren Carden, Our Lady's Church, Lake Road, Windermere,
LA23 2EQ. Tel: 015394 33027

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 • Museum • Events



Free admission to Grasmere residents

Uncover Wordsworth's radical and creative life story on a visit to Wordsworth Grasmere.

Be inspired by his words in the very place they were written.

Find out more and book tickets: wordsworth.org.uk

Dove Cottage. Photograph: Gareth Gardner