



Grasmere Parish Magazine

February and March
2021

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.

Copy Date

Copy date for the **April - May 2021** magazine is **18th March 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**

Take another look

The writer Kathleen Norris* tells the story of an old man she knew who had been diagnosed with cancer. In his illness he had reached for a Bible which had been given to him and his wife on their Wedding Day by his Grandfather. The man confessed that he had never really bothered with it. It was leather-bound with the couple's names on the front cover. He and his new wife had sent a polite thankyou note but simply placed it on a shelf in their wardrobe.

On opening the Bible, the now elderly and sick man discovered why his Grandfather had often asked them how much they'd liked their present. They thought he was showing signs of ageing but these many years later it was revealed that Grandfather had placed a twenty-dollar Bill at the beginning of every Book of the Bible- over a thousand dollars in all. Because the man had just seen the Bible and assumed there was nothing there to interest him, he (and his wife) had missed out on quite a gift.

We are used to hearing the word 'prejudice' quite a lot these days in a range of contexts. It literally describes our tendency to hold an opinion or feeling which has been formed beforehand or without knowledge, thought or reason. It also describes the way we sometimes make somewhat lazy assumptions based on the label we can apply to someone ("I recognise your sort!") and that means we don't have to think or look more deeply. However, the risk we take is in missing out on quite a gift.

Perhaps with good reason, we don't like to acknowledge how prone we can be to this kind of attitude but if we're honest, I believe there are countless ways in which we make lazy and uninformed assumptions about people, things and places. Again, it's a kind of short-hand but in the end it's an unimaginative and bland way to live.

It can be quite tragic when we see it for example in a marriage, where a couple no longer think there is anything more to learn or discover about the other. So often it helps to take another look, to ask questions so that we don't miss out on quite a gift.

There's an incident in John's Gospel (John 1.43-50) where Jesus was subject to this kind of prejudice. A man called Philip invites his friend Nathaniel to come and meet Jesus. Knowing where Jesus had come from, he immediately replies, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Mercifully, Nathaniel sets aside his prejudiced view, accepts the invitation and his life is never the same again.

The Season of Lent which begins this month is a good opportunity to have a think about some of our prejudices, some of our automatic assumptions and reactions to

things, people and places. In particular, I'd recommend thinking about your assumptions (shall we call them prejudices?) about Jesus. How well do you really know him and all that he said and did? What might happen if you took another look?

Holy Week and Easter (even in lock-down) is an especially good place for discovering what Jesus is all about. Good Friday, in particular (where Christians spend a long time looking at the Cross and listening to the words of Jesus) is the perfect antidote for any sense that he is to be classed as ordinary or of no account.

The Gospels tell us of many people who are called 'passers-by' on the first Good Friday. They were people who made this mistake and saw nothing more of interest than the execution of another misbegotten criminal. But those who stayed by the cross, witnessed the way in which he died and looked more deeply, and listened to the things he said saw something more going on - and their lives were never the same again.

This Lent, Good Friday and Easter, take another look at Jesus. And don't miss out on the gift of a lifetime.

Every blessing, *David*

* 'Amazing Grace: A vocabulary of Faith' by Kathleen Norris (Lion)

St. Oswald's News

Advent and Christmas

It was lovely to welcome our children to Church in the weeks before Christmas for their weekly Worship Time, Christingle and Nativity Story. Our thanks are due to the Village Band and to all who helped make our outdoor Carol Service go so well. It was a short and simple occasion made all the more significant by the great number of folk who, though socially distant, were determined to be together.

Sundays Online

It has been disappointing to, once again, suspend Sunday worship at St. Oswald's but in the current circumstances it seemed the wisest course of action. At the time of going to press it is difficult to predict when matters will change and so there are no Church Diary dates in this edition(!) However, thank you for your understanding, and 'watch this space' for further developments.

Although we're not able to physically meet, the praying and the caring continues across the community and thank you for all those everyday acts of kindness which both lift morale and give flesh to what we believe.

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 Facebook Community Hub for kindly hosting our daily Advent Reflections. A link helping you to access our daily Reflections for Lent will be posted on Facebook and our websites from Ash Wednesday onwards. Alternatively, if you wish to receive these by email do contact me via: rev.grasmererydal@hotmail.com

The Faithful Departed

In the past couple of months, we have given thanks for the lives of Joan Rowe, Laurence Harwood and Jan Perritt. Please hold them and their loved ones in your prayers.

Luke in 40 Days

- taking another Look at Jesus.

This Lent we are invited to focus on getting to know Jesus through a pattern of readings which will take us through the Gospel of Luke. The list of readings will be published on the St. Oswald's website stoswaldsgrasmere.uk

On Sundays, you may want to reread a passage which resonated with you or focus on the passages used in our Sunday worship Reflection.

- Set a regular time and place where you will do your reading.
- Place your Bible somewhere it will become a visible reminder.
- Track your progress by marking off readings as you complete them.

If you miss a day just start over from where you left off and catch up on a light day or on a Sunday.

A Reflection based on each day's passage will be available via: Facebook, St. Oswald's website and David Wilmot's blog

To receive an e-mail please contact:

rev.grasmererydal@hotmail.com

Feb 17	Wed. 1:1-38	13	Sat. 13:1-35
18	Thurs. 1:39-80	14	Sun. Rest
19	Fri. 2:1-20	15	Mon. 14:1-35
20	Sat. 2:21-52	16	Tues. 15:1-32
21	Sun. Rest	17	Wed. 16:1-31
22	Mon. 3:1-38	18	Thurs. 17:1-37
23	Tues. 4:1-30	19	Fri. 18:1-17
24	Wed. 4:31-44	20	Sat. 18:18-43
25	Thurs. 5:1-39	21	Sun. Rest
26	Fri. 6:1-16	22	Mon. 19:1-28
27	Sat. 6:17-49	23	Tues. 19:29-48
28	Sun. Rest	24	Wed. 20:1-26
Mar 1	Mon. 7:1-23	25	Thurs. 20:27-47
2	Tues. 7:24-50	26	Fri. 21:1-38
3	Wed. 8:1-25	27	Sat. 22:1-23
4	Thurs. 8:26-56	28	Sun. Rest
5	Fri. 9:1-27	29	Mon. 22:24-53
6	Sat. 9:28-62	30	Tues. 22:54-71
7	Sun. Rest	31	Wed. 23:1-31
8	Mon. 10:1-42	Apr 1	Thurs. 23:32-56
9	Tues. 11:1-28	2	Fri. 24:1-27
10	Wed. 11:29-54	3	Sat. 24:28-53
11	Thurs. 12:1-32	4	Easter - Celebrate!
12	Fri. 12:33-59		

WI News

In December we held a Zoom Christmas Party. There were games, songs, stories and poems. Thanks to everyone who took part and made this such an enjoyable afternoon.

At our January meeting we discussed and voted on the 5 resolutions put forward by our National Federation as campaigns to adopt in 2021. Most votes went to the resolution to increase awareness of coronary heart disease in women, with the campaign to increase the awareness of ovarian cancer coming a close second. We await the result of the national vote with interest.

Our meeting on Thursday 11 February, 2pm sees us welcome back Frances the Pearl Lady. Part 1 of her talk in November was hugely entertaining, and we are really looking forward to part 2 as she speaks to us from her home in France.

In March we hope to have a talk about gardens as we head into spring. Thursday 11 March, 2pm.

We continue to meet every other Thursday at 2pm for an hour's "Cheerful Chat" on Zoom. If we are allowed to meet outside in groups we will resume our Grasmere Rambles on the 4th Thursday of the month.

Jan Perritt was a much loved member of Grasmere WI, and we are deeply saddened by her death. Even in this year of restrictions Jan's spirit and generosity shone through.

In summer, when we were able to resume our (socially distanced) Rambles, Jan invited us all to her home for outdoors tea and a wonderful selection of her famous cakes. Jan's hospitality was legendary.

At the beginning of December Jan shared with us a delightful, amusing online presentation about her life and her family, with lots of wonderful photos as part of our "Cheerful Chats" It was a lovely afternoon of shared memories.

We will all miss Jan's smile, her company and her friendship. We send our love and sympathy to Don and family. *Sue Dixon*

Knit and Nat

We, knitters and natters, would like to send our good wishes to all readers of the magazine for 2021; we hope the year improves and we will be able to meet up again with friends and neighbours sooner rather than later. We thank the Reading Room for allowing us to meet there when we are able which unfortunately was only a few times in 2020.

Knit and Nat will be holding 3pm zoom meetings on the second Tuesday and fourth Tuesdays in both February and March (February 9th and 23rd and March 9th and 23rd). 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 log in notification.

The first meeting of the year saw us celebrate our sixth birthday on zoom. Carrie organised an excellent celebration with a game of prize bingo and a quiz. One of our members made a celebratory cupcake with a candle! All participants enjoyed the fun afternoon. Many thanks were expressed to Carrie for all the effort she put into the meeting.

We hope to be able to get another batch of baby blankets together for the Furness General Hospital at the end of February. We knitted, and delivered, fifteen blankets before Christmas thanks to one of our group who happened to be going to the hospital. If anyone has a blanket for our collection just let me know and I will collect it up from your house. A reminder of the pattern is below:

Double knitting wool, size 7 (4.5mm) needles, cast on 80sts and knit for 20 inches (51cms). Any pattern is acceptable. *Christine Batey*

Crisis Christmas 2020 Appeal

As we were compiling the December Magazine we were very moved by the Crisis appeal for the homeless, with pictures in our paper of a lady dragging her mattress along the street.

We decided to raise some money, Grasmere Pharmacy were very helpful selling some of my Christmas cards.

Altogether we were able to send a contribution of £100 to Crisis at Christmas!

Thanks to everyone who supported us, and of course to the Pharmacy.

Kay Adkins

Rushbearing 2021

We are in the very early stages of preparation with a weather eye on global events, but 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 date **Saturday 10th July 2020** in your diaries, set your brain into action and if you have any thoughts, contact either David or one of the committee Amy Burton, Will Clark, Charlotte Ellwood or Carrie Taylor

No matter where world events take us this year, there will be a Rushbearing!
Let's make it not just a good effort but a great event. Thanks, *Carrie*

Events at Wordsworth Grasmere

If you are looking for something creative to help you through the current lockdown, at Wordsworth Grasmere we still have plenty of events and groups taking place over Zoom and most of them are free.

Our 2021 contemporary poetry reading series, “**Go to the poets, they will speak to thee**”, is curated and hosted by 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. Each event in the series is part reading, part open mic, and the featured guest poet and open mic theme change each month. On Wednesday 10 February our guest is **Anthony Anaxagorou**, reading from his latest collection *After the Formalities*. On Wednesday 24 March **Seán Hewitt** will be launching his much-anticipated debut collection *Tongues of Fire*.

Discover Poetry is a lively group hosted by poet Polly Atkin, and next meets on Thursday 18 February and 18 March. 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 Thursday 4 February and 4 March.

Dove Cottage Young Poets is a group for Cumbrians aged 14-21 that meets fortnightly to read, discuss and write poetry with contemporary poet Kim Moore. Young writers can also work towards a Bronze, Silver or Gold Arts Award, attend and perform at poetry events and meet other young writers. They next meet on 5 February, 19 February, 5 March and 19 March. Email Zoe McLain at education@wordsworth.org.uk for more information.

All the above events take place online and are booked through our website, wordsworth.org.uk *Hannah Catterall, Events Officer, Wordsworth Grasmere*

Reimagining Wordsworth

Events at University of Cumbria

For the next event in our Changing Perceptions of a Cultural Landscape event series we are very pleased to welcome Jeff Cowton MBE, whose topic will be “Poetry that will live and do good: Reimagining Wordsworth”. Jeff is Curator and Head of Learning at Dove Cottage, home of William and Dorothy Wordsworth between 1799-1808.

This online event will take place at 6.30pm on Monday 1st February. The talk is free, but booking is required. You can find out more and register via the event page: cumbria.ac.uk/about/events/ We do hope you can join us.
Penny Bradshaw Senior Lecturer University of Cumbria

Grasmere Book Group

Our January meeting brought a whole host of reading suggestions for the coming year. Following some lively discussion of potential books, the reading schedule looks like this:

February 11th – Penelope Lively, *Life in the Garden*

March 11th – A graphic novel (title to be confirmed)

April 8th – Elizabeth von Arnim, *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*

Book group is informal and if you’ve not been before then do consider joining in or passing these details to friends. All are welcome! For the foreseeable future meetings will be taking place virtually via Zoom.

Regular bulletins about meetings are emailed around, so if you’d like to receive these do email dr.will.smith@me.com

We look forward to another year of bookish conversation! *Polly and Will*

Allan Bank

We were thrilled to re-open Allan Bank on 4th December. It was a good opportunity to view the large scale portraits of Wordsworth, Coleridge and Rawnsley drawn by Sarah Jackman. Despite the inclement weather, visitors were pleased to stretch their legs in the beautiful surroundings. Between Christmas and New Year, visitors enjoyed toasting marshmallows over the brazier, accompanied by a warming hot chocolate.

During the quieter months of January and February we can now focus on our essential building project, with funding from the government through the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Unfortunately woodworm have eaten their way through a few of the ceiling and floor beams. They are now being repaired so that the Mountain Heritage Trust Library can be returned to the ground floor. The building team are also focusing on improving air circulation and drainage in the cellars, to help reduce the warm, humid conditions that the woodworm favour. Other essential tasks will also be carried out to maintain the necessary services within the building.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you back in March, but this will obviously depend on the current government guidelines. With longer days and brighter weather it will be a great opportunity to pack a picnic and enjoy the wonderful views at Allan Bank. Do remember a free garden pass for local residents can be issued with proof of address.

In order to help us manage capacity and keep everyone safe, we will be asking visitors to pre-book their arrival slot. For further details and to book your visit, please check our website: nationaltrust.org.uk/allan-bank-and-grasmere .

Katriona Field, Welcome Manager, Allan Bank

Grasmere Village Society

Happy New Year to you all. Perhaps happy is not the word that most readily springs to mind at the moment. The coronavirus pandemic is reaching unprecedented heights with the number of cases, hospitalisations and deaths exceeding our worst fears. Yet as we endure our third lockdown there is hope for the future and as the snowdrops and daffodils push relentlessly upwards through the hard winter soil so we must also push on towards a brighter and better future. A number of villagers have now received a first vaccination, the number of cases within the area remains low and we will get through this.

The village is eerily quiet at the moment but normality will return and then we can laughingly grumble again about the hordes of visitors, the parking problems, the litter and poo bags everywhere and how lucky we are to be alive and live in this wonderful place! I sincerely hope that all our shops and businesses can survive and bounce back stronger than ever.

Many thanks to everybody who has already renewed their membership this year. In addition to the £1 fee, your voluntary donations are gratefully accepted and help the society to fund and support local projects to the benefit of all. If you have not had a chance to renew your membership yet, Will Clark would be delighted to hear from you.

Sadly, since I last wrote, we have lost two longstanding and active members of the society with the deaths of Laurence Harwood and Jan Perritt. Our thoughts are with their families at this time.

The committee continues to meet via Zoom on a monthly basis and we are pleased to debate and action any matters that you bring to our attention. Unfortunately we are not in a position to make firm arrangements for the annual dinner or AGM yet, but watch this space. *Nick McCraith (Chairman)*

Grasmere Sports and Show

We have been busy behind the scenes over the past year planning our event for 2021. We have also had a few changes with new Directors, and a new Chairman Mr John Hibbert. After many years of service Hal Bagot has stepped down and is now Vice-Chairman.

Our new Chairman said “Being Chairman of Grasmere Sports Committee is a great privilege and I have always held the long-standing traditions of both the community and the Sports in great respect. My family have been involved in the Sports for several generations, and all my children have taken part in Guides' races since early childhood, though I may have missed my chance some time ago! Improving what we offer to visitors and those taking part is very important to us. Please let me know if you or anyone you know has any ideas which would help in this regard”. You can contact the committee via their website: grasmeresports.com/contact-us , where a full list of Directors is also available.

The date to put in your new diary is **Sunday 29th August 2021.**

Christine Shaw. Director.

Laurence Harwood 1933 - 2020

Tributes have been pouring in after the death of Laurence Harwood who was for many years Regional Director of the National Trust in the North West. His love for the Lake District, its traditions, farming methods, nature conservation and way of life made him feel at home as soon as he was transferred here from running the National Trust in the North East.

He first came to the Lakes as a young man when studying to be a land agent at Cirencester Agricultural College, to help out on the Somervell's farm in Kendal. It was then his love for climbing the Lake District fells and in winter walking up with "skins" on the bottom of his skis in order to ski downhill became a part of his life.

As regional director of the N.T. he loved nothing more than being out of the office and meeting the farmers and landowners and their families. He knew everyone's name and always remembered what they were concerned with and tried to help in anyway he could.



In his concern for the Lake District he was also Chairman of the Cumbria Landowner's Association where he was influential in helping with Conservation. He was also a long time director of the Wordsworth Trust where he advised on buildings and was for many years a Director of Grasmere Sports and was best known for umpiring the Tug of War, waving his red handkerchief and throwing his hat into the air at the finish.

In Grasmere he was a member of the Grasmere Village Society and helped to set up the Wordsworth Daffodil Garden behind the church, which contains a stone path in memory of those who lived in or loved visiting the village.

He was Chairman for many years of the Lakeland Housing Trust formed in 1937 to provide houses for locals at affordable rents. In Grasmere he had experienced the growing number of homes which had previously been lived in full time turning into holiday homes and the effect this had on house prices, which meant that young people working in the area could no longer afford to live here. With his wide circle of acquaintances he helped publicise this need which resulted in houses and land being bequeathed to the Trust . There are now 42 properties as a result of the work of all past and present members of the LHT.

At his retirement from the National Trust he was asked to travel the country

identifying coast and countryside locations under threat so that the NT would have an idea about what they might earmark to save for future conservation.

The centenary of the NT brought about another travel adventure - Laurence was asked to lead "Around the Trust in 80 Days". This began in London by sailing under Tower Bridge in a fully rigged ship and arriving in each region to be taken by yet another form of transport to meet NT members. The transport varied from being dropped into the North Sea by helicopter, hot-air ballooning, ride-on lawn mower racing and many more, ending up walking on stilts into Green Park where a tree was planted to commemorate the centenary.

In 1996 Laurence was awarded the O.B.E. for his work in conservation.

Now Laurence's friends and colleagues from around the country and abroad are voicing their sadness at the loss of a man who they describe as "a true gentleman, interesting and interested, kind, warm hearted, knowledgeable and at the same time humble and so much more.

His family, wife Melissa, children Matthew and Alice and grandchildren Daniel, Luke, Theodora and Elliot will miss him greatly as he has been a pillar of strength and happiness in their lives. *Melissa Harwood*

CALENDAR

February 2021

1 Mon	18:30	Online	Reimagining Wordsworth event
4 Thu	14:00	Zoom	Dove Cottage Poets
5 Fri	16:00	Zoom	Dove Cottage Young Poets
9 Tue	15:00	Zoom	Knit & Nat
10 Wed	19:30	Zoom	Poetry Reading & Open Mic
11 Thu	14:00	Zoom	WI
11 Thu	20:00	Zoom	Book Group
18 Thu	19:30	Zoom	Discover Poetry
19 Fri	16:00	Zoom	Dove Cottage Young Poets
23 Tue	15:00	Zoom	Knit & Nat

March 2021

4 Thu	14:00	Zoom	Dove Cottage Poets
5 Fri	16:00	Zoom	Dove Cottage Young Poets
9 Tue	15:00	Zoom	Knit & Nat
11 Thu	20:00	Zoom	Book Group
18 Thu	19:30	Zoom	Discover Poetry
19 Fri	16:00	Zoom	Dove Cottage Young Poets
23 Tue	15:00	Zoom	Knit & Nat
24 Wed	19:30	Zoom	Poetry Reading & Open Mic

Lakes Parish Council Newsletter – Feb/Mar 2021

Hello and welcome to another Parish Newsletter, this time contained within Grasmere Parish Magazine. 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.

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.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman of the Council: Cllr Mrs Louise Waterhouse 015394 31182

Clerk: Michael Johnson 015394 31656

Lakes Parish Council
Ambleside Library, First Floor
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 Hodkinson 015394 33516
Cllr Will Clark 07919 298671

NOTICE

TO ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORS IN LAKES PARISH

Take note that, provided Government regulations allow, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the Library, Kelsick Road, Ambleside, on Monday 10th May 2021 at 6.00 pm in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 Part 3. This may be a Hybrid Meeting via Microsoft Teams with access details promulgated nearer the time.

All Electors of Lakes Parish are invited to participate and raise any concerns. The Parish Council will present its Annual Report.

The meeting is open to all members of the public but only local government electors from the Parish of Lakes are permitted to vote.

This notice is given by:-

[original signed by] Cllr. Louise Waterhouse,
Chairman, Lakes Parish Council. February 2021

AND FINALLY,

The Clerk to the Council, Michael Johnson, will be retiring in 2021. An advert for his successor will be placed in the local press during February/March 2021. Anyone wishing to have an informal chat about this impending vacancy should contact Michael on 07706847112 at any time.

Michael Johnson

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