Greysouthen Gossip

Your window on village news and events

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers.



Old Folks

Not long now!! The magic of Christmas will soon be upon us and of course it all starts on December the 14th when the Old Folks of Greysouthen (that means anyone who lives in the village and is over the ripe old age of 55) are invited to the FREE Christmas dinner and entertainment in the village hall. It starts at 6.30 If you are coming please let it be known to any of the committee members whose names you can find on the notices around the village. It helps to estimate the numbers attending and we look forward to seeing our friends and neighbours old and new. Once again the committee wholeheartedly thank all those that have supported the old folk's weekly tote over the past year, because without your kind generosity this ancient tradition would not exist. The committee wish everyone a wonderful and Happy Christmas.

On my rounds this past year collecting the money, I have noticed there are more young people moving into Greysouthen and they are participating in the draw, and it is to these that we give a special welcome and best wishes for a lovely festive season. So that's all for now, have a good time, and a very happy and LUCKY New Year.

Ken Needham,
Greysouthen Old Folks committee

Bus service withdrawal

Like me you've probably been following the saga of the threatened bus service withdrawal with some anxiety. At the moment the bus service through Greysouthen is planned to stop on Dec 13th, although negotiations are in place with other providers. The parish council has discussed this at some length with Alan Kennon (County Councillor) and protested vigorously but if you wish to make your own comment contact Caroline Watson, Community Transport Officer, Lonsdale Building, The Courts, Carlisle CA3 89A

New Parish Council Chairman

I have taken on the role of Chairman of the Greysouthen Parish Council following the resignation of Anne Woodcock, due to ill health. Anne has tirelessly served the people of Greysouthen on the Council over many years and will be a hard act to follow. I am fortunate to have the support of experienced colleagues and the advice of a knowledgeable Parish Clerk to help me in my new role. Thank you Anne for your long service to the parish and best wishes for the future.

The Council has also lost Councillor Claire Raven due to work and family commitments. Claire has been behind the success of the playing field and toddlers play area. We'll miss her hard work and her valuable input at meetings.

The mathematicians amongst you will realise that there are vacancies for two parish councillors. If you interested, there are details elsewhere in this issue.

One of the great things about living in the parish of Greysouthen is its people. People, like Anne and Claire, who give up their time for the benefit of others. I'd like to say a BIG THANK YOU to the volunteers who have generously given their time and effort over the last couple of months for the benefit of our community. They have cleared Riggin Gill to prevent winter flooding; rescued the Memorial Garden from the jungle; and, at the time of writing, have almost completed the village hall makeover. Village hall funds were boosted by a sponsored bike ride from Greysouthen to Hartside pass and back – many thanks to Robin and his sponsors. Thank you to Margaret & Stuart, our editors, for keeping this newsletter rolling out. I 'guest edited' Issue 10 (now a collector's item) so I appreciate the amount of work involved. Finally, thank you to the volunteers who deliver the 'Gossip' to your front door.

Christmas is a time for thinking about others; this year it came early to Greysouthen, courtesy of our generous volunteers. Have a good Christmas and all the best for 2014.

Gwyn

[Gwyn Lloyd is retired, has lived in Greysouthen for over 15 years and has been a Parish Councillor for 3 years. He is a member of the Greysouthen carpet bowls club and is the scheme co-ordinator for the Cockermouth Walking 4 Health Group].

Jubilee Garden Update

In the last Gossip, the call went out for volunteers to help tidy up and maintain the Jubilee Garden, thanks to those who showed an interest. Special thanks go out to George, who has worked superhumanly hard digging out the tangle of weeds and brambles which had taken over, treated the grass and other back-breaking maintenance work. Thanks also to Ken and Robin who have helped out too, and to those who have donated some plants. If anyone has any room in their garden bins before the 13th December collection, it would be a great help if you could fill them with the pile of roots/garden rubbish collecting at the back of the garden! Bulbs have been planted in the garden, but we're looking for colourful perennials/shrubs so any donations welcome. You can plant (and label) them in the dug out borders for now, although they may be repositioned eventually. We're awaiting news from the parish council about getting funding for a new bench, weed-killer, and cement to repair the wall. Anyone fancy some digging, please feel free to pop along and you'll see where still needs to be cleared!

Sally Chambers

New Councillors

You'll have seen elsewhere that we have 2 vacancies on the Parish Council. The PC has 9 members and meets once a month (apart from August) on Monday evenings. Our Allerdale and County councillors regularly attend our meetings. Current council members are Gwyn Lloyd, Mike Ringquist, Richard Gildert, Edward Sewell, James Trafford, David Birch and Margaret Wiltshire. You'll realise from this that there is a gender imbalance on the council, which doesn't reflect the population of the parish!

If you are interested in joining the council or would like to know more, please contact Gwyn Lloyd (gwynlloyd73@btinternet.com) or myself (m.wiltshire08@btinternet.com 01900 827809). An initial contact and chat wouldn't necessarily commit you to anything!



Library Van

When the parish council arranged for the library bus to visit Greysouthen earlier in the year there were quite a few folk using it, but now it has dwindled down to one or two. The librarian has considerable knowledge of his stock, which is surprisingly extensive and new, considering the restricted space there is in the van. There are lots of books for children and I am surprised that there are not more young mothers using this facility besides the lack of us more senior residents using it as well.

Here are the dates of its return to Greysouthen in 2014. All at 2.30 outside the village hall, and not forgetting that you keep the books for all the time between the visits without penalty, or they can be returned to any Cumbrian library.

January 3rd, February 7th, March 21st, May 16th, June 20th.

Ken Needham

Be on your guard!

The parish council has been informed by the Allerdale Rural Policing Team that there has been an increase in burglary and thefts in the area surrounding Cockermouth. The majority of thefts are committed against insecure homes and property e.g. bikes that are left outside houses and can just be picked up and taken away. Residents are requested to secure their houses and not make their possessions a target for thefts. If you see any suspicious vehicles or persons please contact the police and pass on as much information as possible, including vehicle registration and description of persons. (101 for non-emergency and 999 for emergencies.)

Our Police Community Support Officer is Sarah Brown. sarah.brown2@cumbria.police.uk

Carol singing

The WI has again organised carol singing around Greysouthen village on Dec 17th, at 6.30 start outside the old shop. All residents are welcome to come and join in (there's a rumour of mulled wine afterwards in the village hall!) Last year there was a good turn out so do come and sing along - the more the merrier! A few more fellows are needed to swell the sound.

Next Virtual Pub date January 31st.



Latest from the Village Hall.

With the help of several members of the virtual pub group work is progressing nicely on the revamp to the area at the rear of the hall. We have taken out the stairs to the storage loft, moved the storage cupboards to a new position, built new storage to store the tables in a safe manner, creating an area with easy chairs and low tables for small groups to meet in comfort. The area will be redecorated to match the rest of the hall. We hope to have the work finished by the end of January early February.

The boiler thermostat has been moved from by the boiler to the hallway by the kitchen door this will stop the heating going off when the kitchen is in use.

Please remember the village hall is for the use of the village and surrounding area and if there is anything you think that would help to improve the hall or ways in which it can be used please let the committee know and we will see what can be done.

To book the hall call Jeanette 07597956522

Roger James

Connecting Cumbria.

There is still no firm information about when we will be able to get Superfast Broadband. BT is still not releasing any advance information. The most up to-date information is via Connecting Cumbria Twitter and on the Connecting Cumbria website, http://www.connectingcumbria.org.uk.

There have been some changes though. According to the website the Cockermouth exchange will now be enabled by the end of Dec 2013, it was previously scheduled for Dec 2014 and there is also a new roadside cabinet by the existing cabinet in Greysouthen, next to the caravan park. I don't know if there are others but BT were seen working in Bridgefoot and Chapel Brow. Once the exchange is enabled the roadside cabinet has to be connected with fibre and when that is done you will be able to contact your chosen internet provider to sign up for Superfast Broadband. The information about who will get what speeds etc will be released by BT, so we are told, six months prior to a roadside cabinet being enabled. This will give people who will not get the superfast speed the chance to work with BT and CCC to see what can be done to maximize their connection.

If you have any issues or questions email me at david@blaylock.me.uk and I will try to answer them.

David Blaylock

GREYSOUTHEN W.I.

In September we had a fascinating talk, with slides, from Terry Chilcott, who lives in Lamplugh, about his experiences at the London 2012 Olympics. He had been a "Gamesmaker", one of 75,000 volunteers who helped to make the games the great success they were.. He was one of 8 volunteers allocated to the New Zealand team, and had many lively anecdotes recounting his time with them.

October saw us entertained by Stephen Wilson, who told us all about "The Science of Chocolate" – with samples!! His was also an interesting talk, starting with the history of chocolate making, first made by Joseph Fry, then Cadbury's. Stephen was a scientist, not a chocolatier, explaining how recipes for chocolate are carefully developed, and how the different recipes by all the chocolate companies are all very closely guarded secrets to this day.

Jennifer Scott came in November to tell us all about the Calvert Trust. The centre near Crosthwaite, was the UK's first outdoor residential education centre to enable people with physical, sensory or learning disabilities to do what able bodied people take for granted. The short DVD Jennifer showed us of these activities and how they can be achieved was inspiring and at times very moving.

So you can see we have had a thoroughly enjoyable and varied autumn at the WI. When you read this we will quite likely have had our Christmas party, pie and pea supper with home made entertainment (a small quiz and BAG BEATLE!!) and of course our carol singing around Greysouthen Village on Dec 17th.

Our January meeting on 21st promises to be intriguing, "Titanic – what if?" is the title, so do come along and see for yourselves, and have a cup of tea and a chat, everyone welcome.

Liz Bell

