Greysouthen Gossip

Your window on parish news and events

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Parish Council

On behalf of all readers, the Parish Council would like to stay a BIG 'thank you" to the many folk who have generously given their time and energy, throughout the year, for the benefit of their fellow parishioners. The breadth of their contribution is amazing: pie and pea suppers and daytrips for the folk at Nepgill Park; the tote, Christmas party and coach trip for the Greysouthen old folks; the monthly Virtual Pub; painting the village hall; cultivating the Jubilee Garden; repairing notice boards and painting seats; and litter picking. Thank you also to the editors of the Gossip, their delivery team and to our friends at Paddle School for doing the printing.

British Telecom is considering removing the 'phone box on Main Street. The Council sought residents' views and the response was that the 'phone should remain for emergency calls. We have advised BT of this but the final decision rests with the company.

Following requests from the Parish Council, an official from the County Council met with residents and visited areas previously affected by flash flooding. Possible flood mitigation measures were discussed and the County is to carry out surveying work to identify where best to implement the mitigation works. In the meantime, if you notice a highway drain that is not flowing properly or backing up please contact the County Council on 0300 303 2992. Allerdale Council is prioritising the clearing of fallen leaves from gullies, roads and pavements to help prevent localised flooding. Please report any areas of leaf build up to: www.allerdale.gov.uk/report.

I mentioned in the last issue that the Council was exploring the possibility of obtaining a public defibrillator for the parish. At our November meeting we had a presentation by Jen Shaw, a First Responder and we are currently seeking more information from the British Heart Foundation about a suitable unit. Watch this space and the notice boards for further information. At the moment we are thinking that the defibrillator will be sited outside the Village Hall. It has been suggested that we have a list of villagers able to deliver CPR displayed next to the defibrillator.

The Parish Council wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, Happy New Year.

Gwyn Lloyd

Carol singing

The carol singers will be making their tuneful way around the village on Tuesday December 20th. All welcome to join in - singing, playing, or collecting, then back to the Village Hall for mulled wine and mince pies. The collection this year is for Cockermouth Mountain Rescue.

Meet at the junction of Chapel Terrace and Main St at 6.30. We hope to see lots of folk there.

Play park

Please, don't park in front of the entrance to the play park. There've been a couple of times when the grass cutters couldn't get in, and of course it also means that if the access is blocked and an emergency vehicle was needed it also wouldn't be able to gain entry. I know we all hope this'll never happen but just in case let's keep the access clear.

Christmas lights

The parish council have bought some lights to put on the trees in Jubilee Gardens so watch out for our own special Greysouthen illuminations.

The Editor

Nepgill news

In the Parish Council piece Gwyn Lloyd tells us that the PC is planning to purchase a defibrillator for Greysouthen village. It's good to report that the management of Nepgill are also planning to purchase a defibrillator for the park. At the moment it's thought that the office porch would be the best place to site it.



Jubilee Garden

And so the frosts bit down hard at last, and clobbered our dahlia display, then the temperatures soared again!! - well relatively speaking.

Thank you again to the small but perfectly balanced little band (mind and body) who have given the time to develop and maintain the village garden through 2016.

There is still one small corner that is covered awaiting clearing and planting, but it will not be long before we have the full package.

Come the spring, the bulbs should appear, and they should now include some crocus. All are welcome to come and enjoy it or volunteer. When the work starts again in 2017 it will be publicised.

Robin Lovegrove

Old Folks

Once again it gives the committee great pleasure to announce the annual Christmas Dinner for "The Greysouthen Old Folks Reunion" which will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 17th December. Doors open at 6.30 for 7 o'clock start. A hearty, traditional Christmas meal accompanied with wine will be on offer to all people over 55 who reside in the village of Greysouthen. Following the meal there will be live entertainment and of course the drawing of the annual BIG CHRISTMAS DRAW.

The whole event is totally free of charge having been funded by the kind generosity of the people who partake in the weekly tote for the benefit of the senior citizens. Due to the size of the hall we are restricted to 50 attendees and with that in mind may I please advise you to let your tote collector or committee member your intention to attend as soon as possible and definitely no later than Saturday 10th December. It also helps the committee to confirm the numbers for the caterers.

This wonderful tradition has been in existence for over a century and it is marvellous that it still exists. It is only possible to facilitate this magical event because of the weekly tote and therefore the committee would like to wish all the participants and everyone in the village a very, very Merry Christmas and a very lucky New Year."

Ken Needham, Old Folks Committee

A HUGE "Thank you to all who spent a weekend painting the village hall". It looked absolutely amazing when we had our regular meeting there!

Margaret Roberts, Village Carpet Bowls

GREYSOUTHEN W.I.

We have had a most enjoyable and varied series of meetings this autumn. We started in September with Duncan Hamlet from "Mercy Ships", an organisation that sends hospital ships to The Indian Ocean, the Caribbean and the West Coast of Africa. His talk, with slides, was about the African ship, and showed us the wonderful work these state of the art ships do for the local communities that they serve. It was a truly inspirational evening.

In October Catherine Pearson demonstrated her skills with her beautiful flower arrangements, depicting Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. She is so clever, and kept us entertained with funny stories and tales all the time she was putting the arrangements together.

November brought us Norah Alderson from "Cherry Tree Fashions". Another very talented creative lady who makes fascinators and hats, whether for weddings or lady's days at the races, or for warmth in winter. Then there are brides' and bridesmaids' headdresses, silk flower arrangements again for brides and bridesmaids, corsages and buttonholes. She has also branched out into all sorts of jewellery, evening handbags, and more recently onto bespoke candles. Her shop will be an Aladdin's cave of lovely gift ideas.

December will find us having our Christmas party, so be warned to expect lots of noise and laughter coming from the hall that evening. We are always looking for new members and extend a very warm welcome to anyone who would like to come and join us. We normally meet in the village hall on the third Tuesday in each month (for December we meet a week earlier because of Christmas).

Liz Bell, W. I.



OK .... Not quite THAT amazing.

Of Carnivals and Queens - A know your neighbour special

This time we look back through the eyes of one of the village's older residents, Gladys Minshaw. Gladys was born in 1929 in the house on Main Street where she still lives. The original house of one room up and one down was extended in her father's time by the landlords, the Harris family building a wall in the barn that still stands next to the house. This was to accommodate a growing family. Gladys had two brothers Stan and Joe. Like much of the village the toilet facilities were basic, sited outside the house and, in their case, across the street! Baths were taken in the living room in front of the fire with water heated in the boiler used for the wash.

Gladys attended the school in Greysouthen until about the age of eleven then transferred to the all-age school at Paddle until she was fourteen. The Head Teacher lived in Geysouthen House. Gladys produced photos of herself as carnival queen a position she held across a few years first as a Fairy Queen, then Rose Queen and May Queen and finally Retiring Queen. The carnival was an annual event in Greysouthen run by a committee. Most villages held carnivals then; a few keeping up the tradition until the present day. One of her other photos showed brother Joe with a group of lads dancing in a processional manner. Gladys also went to the Methodist Chapel in the village until it closed, but did not make the change to St. Bridget's in Brigham at that time.

At fourteen Gladys became a chamber-maid and waited on at The Globe in Cockermouth where she lived in, her room being on the ground floor behind, where the night club is. These were long working days starting at 7 a.m. and continuing until after dinner was served. Having taken family holidays in Blackpool, she became acquainted with the land-lady of the boarding house and transferred to work there for some time before her marriage.

Gladys married Lancelot (Lant), a miner at the Great Clifton colliery, in 1949 at Brigham Church and stopped work as most wives did, with her own family of two daughters, Sandra and Marlene, arriving in the early years. They continued to live in the Main Street house rented from the Harris family until around 1965. Asked about her leisure time, she recalled going to the pub in the village and dances both in the village at the Albert Hall, and the British Legion in Workington. She and Lant were members of the Old Folks Reunion committee (fore-runner of the present) raising money by raffles for outings and Christmas Dinners (*plus ça change*). There was a photo that showed them both alongside a younger Eric Haughin (Gladys' cousin) and his wife, Dot Sewell and others.

Gladys recalled the village shop, post office in various places, butcher and Co-op store.

Stuart Wiltshire



Greysouthen Carnival around 1940 with Gladys as Carnival Queen Her father is the cap-wearing man bottom left.

Fly Tipping

On our weekly walk to Cockermouth via Low Road Brigham we had been passing some very unsightly fly tipping of builder's plaster left by the roadside in a large dumpy bag. Thinking that it would be reported it remained unmoved, so I decided to report it on -line myself. Never having done it before I Googled "Allerdale fly tipping" and was directed to a very good site supplied with a map where you describe what it is and accurately pinpoint its location. You can register or remain anonymous. Or if you would prefer you can ring Allerdale on 01900-702702. The rubbish was gone when we passed two days later. It is a sad fact that there are people who commit this criminal act of fly tipping but we can do our bit to keep our lanes looking lovely by reporting the offence so very easily.

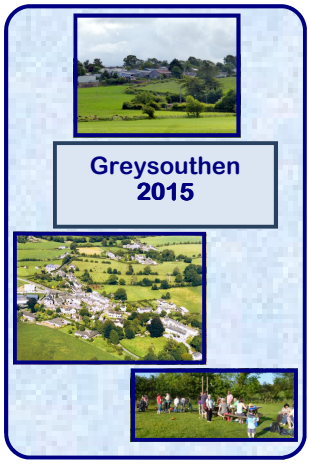
Ken Needham

Greysouthen 2015 booklet

If anyone needs a copy of the "GREYSOUTHEN 2015" as posted through letter-boxes with the last Gossip, there are a few still available at Ken Needham, 12, Main Street or from the Editor at The Spinney, Barnyard Court.

These however will be subject to a small charge of £2 a copy which will be given to charity.

Makes a lovely stocking filler!



News from Paddle

This term has disappeared as quickly, as a flash of an angel's wing, as we rapidly fly towards Christmas. The Year 5 and 6 children put on their best cockney accents, and entertained us with superb singing and dancing during their performance of Olivia. What an excellent portrayal of the take on Oliver Twist with a few other famous Victorian characters thrown in for good measure.

Christmas festivities have already begun at Paddle with the Y1 &2 Trip to Lal Ratty Santa Express and our Reception Trip to Whinlatter to choose a Christmas tree. Other festivities will include our Christmas Fair on Thursday 1st December, the Key Stage 2 Trip to The Emperor and the Nightingale at The Theatre by the Lake, and our Nursery and Reception visit to the Kirkgate Theatre. But most of all we are all looking forward to our Paddle Family Christmas Dinner on 7th December; the kitchen staff are busy preparing for this feast.

Amongst all this excitement, however, it's easy to forget the true meaning of Christmas and the gift of Jesus and Peace on Earth. In the hectic and often commercial build up to Jesus' birthday, we must take time to reflect on the wonderful landscape around us and the beauty of creation. Take time to spend time with family and friends and enjoy the fresh air that cold, bright days bring, as all too quickly 2017 will be upon us.

On behalf of all the children, staff and governors at Eaglesfield Paddle CE Primary Academy we would like to wish you all a peaceful and restful Christmas and good health for the New Year.

God's richest blessings.

Mrs. Dawn F. V. Watson, Head teacher

