Greysouthen Gossip

Your window on parish news and events

Published by Greysouthen Parish Council

Issue No. 20 - September 2016

Parish Council

Well, that was a short summer but it was good while it lasted.

Talking of things coming to an end, the Greysouthen Annual Show in August was, sadly, the last one to be organised by the Greysouthen W.I. They arranged the first show way back in 1954 and have continued to do so until this year – an amazing record to be proud of. A lot of hard work goes into staging the event, so a very big thank you to the ladies of the WI, both past and present, for their hard work over the last 62 years.

Amongst the trophies awarded at the show was the Parish Council's floral cup for the best outdoor floral display in a container. Many thanks to Allerdale Councillor Marion Fitzgerald and husband David for volunteering to do the judging. They said it was evident that a lot of residents had gone to considerable effort with their floral displays. This year was the first time that two neighbouring displays were both highly commended - well done to the green-fingered residents at 22 and 23 Nepgill Park. They were joined by High House, Dairy Farm and 31 Main Street which also received highly commended awards. The winner of this year's floral cup was Maple Cottage. Our judges were impressed by the use of the limited space and the well planned colour scheme. (Is that a trophy cabinet you're making, Roger?)

The July meeting of the Parish Council was interrupted by the arrival of a fire engine. Had one of your Councillors got too hot under the collar and combusted? No, the firemen had come to give a talk on the valuable contribution which a public access defibrillator can make in saving lives, particularly in a rural area. The defibrillator is located in a wall mounted box and accessed by a code, obtained by phoning a number on the box. Once the machine has been removed from the box and taken to the casualty, it 'talks' the user through each stage of the resuscitation process. This means that anyone is able to use a defibrillator in an emergency, without having any prior training. The council was impressed by what it heard and is exploring the possibility of obtaining a defibrillator unit for the parish.

Gwyn Lloyd

Greysouthen Village Old Folks

On Saturday June 18th a bus left Greysouthen carrying some of the senior citizens of Greysouthen on the annual outing organised by the Greysouthen Old Folks committee. They were taken to Barnard Castle where they dispersed in all directions. The weather held fair and some went to shops, some were spotted exploring the footpaths, some went to the fascinating Bowes Museum and some tried the beer in the pubs. After 4 hours everyone staggered back to the bus, which then ferried the group off to the Royal Oak in Appleby. There we were treated to one of the best meals we have ever had. A most successful day enjoyed by all and our heartfelt thanks go out to the fantastic ladies on the committee who organised it. Of course none of this would have been possible without the generous participation of the villagers who support the weekly village tote for the Old Folks. Many, many thanks to you all and very good luck.

To end with, please keep an eye open for notices regarding a possible evening trip and meal and also the Christmas dinner which is provisionally arranged for December 17th at the Village Hall once again.

Ken Needham

Defibrillator

In the parish council article Gwyn Lloyd talks about the defibrillator that the council is thinking of getting for the parish.

When the firemen were talking to the Council they strongly recommended that, although the machine talks you through how to proceed, some folk in the parish should be trained in giving CPR to supplement the defibrillator's use. We're planning to organise a course which would be open to all parishioners.

Let Gwyn (gwynlloyd73@btinternet.com) or myself (m.wiltshire08@gmail.com) know if you'd be interested in joining us or if you are already qualified in CPR.

M. Wiltshire, Editor

GREYSOUTHEN W.I

Since our last "Gossip" we have had a couple of very interesting meetings. June saw us learning all about the culinary and medicinal uses of herbs with "Helen's Herbs". Helen explained all sorts of ways to use herbs and how was the best way to grow them, as they each need quite different conditions.

Michael Roberts from PFK auctioneers came to tell us about his work in specialist auctions of antiques and valuable items. In a miniature version of Antiques Road Show, members had brought items for him to examine and value, and there was a really interesting mix of pieces from routine china to antique jewellery and all sorts of other things.

Finally we come to August, when, as most of you will know, we held our last Annual Show. We were delighted with the range of entries in all the classes. We would like to say a very big and very sincere "Thank you," to everyone, to our own WI members, and to all the villagers, who supported us and made this a lovely show to remember.

The results of the various classes were:- Vegetables – Ken Needham, Flowers – Margaret Wiltshire, Produce – Edith Storey, Handicrafts – Doris Scott, and Children – joint winners Sally-Anne and Alfie Hankin. The Overall winner, with the most points for all categories was Edith Storey.

So, onward and upward, we hand over the baton to someone or some organisation in the village to keep the show going forward in the future.

Future meetings at WI include

Sept 20th A talk about Mercy Ships

Oct 18th A Flower Arranging demonstration

Nov 15th A Fashion Show by Cherry Tree Fashions

All meetings start at 7.15 in Greysouthen Village Hall.

Liz Bell

Village Hall Committee

I hope you've had a good summer. With Autumn just around the corner we will make time for the next stage of clean-up in the hall. We will be planning a clean and paint weekend sometime in late September or October. I will update through the email list for the VP.

Remember that it's your village hall and that you can hire it for most size events.

For booking info please contact adrian@whartonsmill.freeserve.co.uk or Jonathan at sabre77@hotmail.co.uk

Jonathan McMeekin

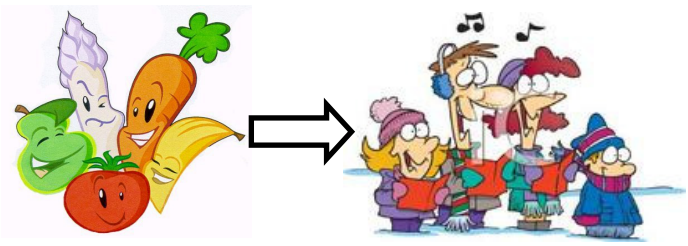
Summer events

Elsewhere in the Gossip there's mention of the show that the WI has organized for so many years. Thanks to the WI we have had a lot of fun at the show evenings, and hope fully someone will come forward to take over the organizing. Let me know if you are taking over – the Gossip will be very happy to help with publicity and drumming up support.

The Village Hall Committee are considering reviving the Children's Sports Day and BBQ that used to happen in July many years ago. If you have young children and would like to help with this please get in touch with Jonathan McMeekin (Village Hall chairman) on sabre77@hotmail.co.uk or M Wiltshire 01900 827809 or m.wiltshire08@gmail.com.

Notwithstanding the fact that yours truly has surprisingly won the WI Flower Show Gardening trophy for the last two years running; it is rather sad that this year's is to be the last one organised by the W.I. and therefore it appears that I may have the thing for ever. However, three ladies were overheard to discuss the possibility of carrying on with the event next year. It would be marvellous if this happy social event survives and someone will hopefully knock me off my precarious pedestal as being the village's champion gardener. So next year let's see what can be done by the owners of gardens and allotments to alleviate me of this magnificent cup and show strong support for the new organisers in their endeavours.

Ken Needham



Carol Singing

Everyone is welcome to join in with the Greysouthen Carol Singing this year, and for those of you that remain at home then we hope to see you on your doorsteps. No hiding about behind those curtains!

We will be collecting for a charity, but which one is yet to be decided. There was a great turn-out amongst the singers last year. We will be gathering at the bottom of Chapel Terrace at 6.30pm 20th December and having refreshments at the Village Hall afterwards.

Robin Lovegrove

An Archaeological Excavation at Chapels Hill, Greysouthen

As an archaeologist, I became interested in the fact that Chapels Hill has no chapel, and wondered if there might be the remains of one beneath the surface. I decided to contact Mark Graham of Grampus Heritage and Training Limited in order to have an archaeological geophysical survey of the hill and this was carried out in April 2015. The results of that survey appeared to show the foundations of a large rectangular building aligned north-west/south-east. Any building on Chapels Hill had been demolished by 1770, the date of the first useful map of the village, which shows many of the buildings still standing in the village today, but with no buildings depicted on Chapels Hill.

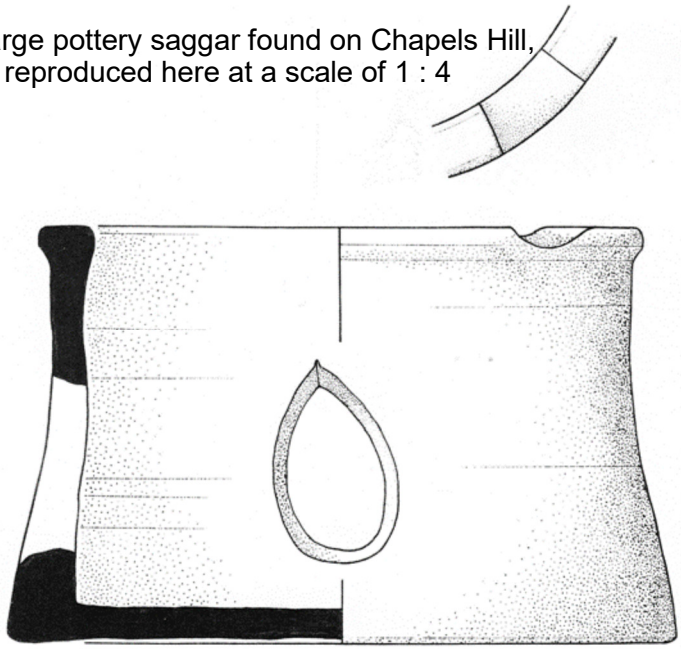
These results were considered sufficiently interesting to warrant further investigation in the form of an archaeological excavation at the site. Mr. Ian Allison of Bleamire House, Greysouthen, the landowner, kindly allowed the present writer to carry out an excavation. So an archaeological excavation was carried out over the course of two days during late May 2016 by Mark Graham, Philip Cracknell and Ken Denham, ably assisted by three volunteers from the village of Greysouthen: Ken Needham, David Blaylock and Diane Roberts. Willie Roberts of Town Head Farm, Greysouthen carried out the machining for the excavation.

Disappointingly, the two trenches revealed little certain evidence for any building at the site. However, in one trench a layer of building demolition material/waste included a large quantity of slag, together with pottery dating to the eighteenth century. The pottery included a wide variety of plates, bowls, storage jars, mugs and a serving dish. Of particular interest were five sherds from at least two large vessels called saggars, which originally measured around fourteen inches in diameter and nine inches in height. These were pieces of kiln furniture which were essentially large drum-shaped boxes or containers in which fragile ceramic wares were placed for protection during the firing of a kiln. The saggars were stacked in columns in the kiln's pot chamber and, when complete, would have weighed in excess of 10 kilograms, or 23 pounds. The presence of the large quantity of slag and the saggars suggest that there was a kiln site on Chapels Hill during the eighteenth century, although there are no references in any historical documentary records for a pottery at Greysouthen, and there was no evidence for a kiln at the present excavation site.

However, there was a second site shown up by the geophysical survey of Chapels Hill, which is only 20 metres to the north of the present excavation, and there is the possibility of a further archaeological investigation in the near future. I am optimistic about further finds and will keep you informed.

Philip Cracknell,
3, Cherry Tree Hill,
Greysouthen

The large pottery saggar found on Chapels Hill, reproduced here at a scale of 1 : 4





Dogs

It has been brought to our attention that a few parishioners are using the children's playing field to walk their dogs. We know that the majority are careful to walk their dogs elsewhere and are meticulous in "pooping and scooping" but even just one or two dogs can make the field both unpleasant and hazardous for the children so please make sure that your dog is walked and emptied away from the playing field.

Thanks

News from Paddle

How quickly does the summer holiday go? "What," I hear you say? You have six weeks off! If like other teachers you spend the first week sleeping (to recover from the busy end of term jamboree!) then at least two weeks tying up ends and preparing for the new term, it cuts the holiday to three weeks. But I am not complaining, in fact when it comes to the end of the holidays, I am actually ready to go back to school! Not just to escape my rowing teenagers but to see the children and colleagues with whom I love working.

I am always amazed to see how much the children have grown over the holidays and how much they have changed. The conversations that flow in the playground about the exciting places they've visited, the members of family that they've caught up with. It's a privilege to observe the enthusiasm of children. I think secretly they are ready to get back to school too!

All topics have been reviewed after two years of the New Curriculum and will be published for each class on their blogs. Lots of exciting learning to be done! No major building work has been undertaken this summer; much to the delight of Janet and Derek. However, rooms and corridors have been painted to keep the school bright and clean, and Mrs. Fleming's store room is now an additional learning space/office. At Paddle, we are always looking to improve what we do and live by our motto "Be the best you can be!"

All the children, staff and Governors will look forward to working with the wider community and we would like to thank the wider community for all the support they give to our school. They say it takes a village to grow a child. It certainly does!

Mrs. Dawn F. V. Watson (Head teacher)

GREYSOUTHEN PRIMARY SCHOOL CHARITY.

This charity offers grants for educational purposes in the widest sense, to young people (under the age of 25) resident in the Greysouthen Parish.

The grants will be provided for any expense associated with educational courses for individuals and any groups which provide for the needs of young people.

Please write to Mrs Christine Caddy, Ivydene, Greysouthen.
email: caddy189@btinternet.com

Rural wheels

Now that we again have no bus service through Greysouthen Village we thought it was worth a reminder about the Rural Wheels service.
The service can be used for all sorts of purposes e.g. medical appointments, shopping , visiting friends to name but a few.

Journeys are charged at 40p a mile, after an initial payment of £5.

Further details are available from The Rural Wheels Service, Cumbria County Council, Lonsdale Building, The Courts, Carlisle CA3 8NA 01228 226428

Jubilee Gardens

Thanks to all those who have contributed to the village garden this year. The display has drawn many positive comments from passers-by. The spring bulbs and the herbaceous border against the wall have been a particular success, as is the dahlia display that will be blooming soon.

Now that things are getting established we could theoretically be doing more growth reduction rather than weeding next year. Ha ha! Please volunteer if you can. We are still assembling to work in the garden at 10am on the Sunday after the last Friday of the month.

Anyone is very welcome to idle away some time too, on the seating provided. It was great to see some children there the other day. I don't think they were eaten.

Robin Lovegrove

Dalton Day, Sept 10th 2016,

Our neighbours in Eaglesfield are holding a Dalton Day on Sept 10th to celebrate 250 years since this world famous scientist was born in the village.

Eaglesfield Village Hall will be open from 10am – 4pm with an exhibition of Dalton's life and there will also be a walking trail around the village.

I'm sure some of us from Greysouthen will be interested to join the celebrations.

Regular events in the village hall

Wednesday evening 7.00 Carpet bowls.
Thursday evening 6.30 - 7.30 Yoga
3rd Monday in the month - Parish council meeting 7.15
3rd Tuesday in the month - WI meeting 7.15
Last Friday in the month - Virtual Pub 8.30

The next edition of the Greysouthen Gossip is due out in early December. Please send contributions no later than 27/11/16.

Thanks.