GREYSOUTHEN GOSSIP

YOUR WINDOW ON GREYSOUTHEN VILLAGE, PARISH NEWS AND LOCAL EVENTS

DECEMBER 2020



GREYSOUTHEN OLD FOLKS

I have had the pleasure of being associated with this organisation for a number of years and being in the position of Acting Chairman I have sadly to report that I shall not be involved with this village institution for very much longer due to having to move home to be closer to our family down South before we become too old and decrepit. The Old Folks will be without the services of the treasurer due to the intensely tragic and sudden passing away of dear Christine Caddy.

Obviously, it has been a momentous year for us all and our village social life has been disrupted beyond recognition but I am certain that within the remaining committee there is ample energy and willingness to keep this century old village social society going. This of course is all dependant on the prevalence of the virus which had caused the suspension of the weekly tote, the bus trips and meals out which our brilliant events man Howard organised.

At the time of writing (mid-November) we are all in lockdown and I sincerely hope that soon we will once more be able to socialise normally and we can enjoy one another's company in a relaxed atmosphere of neighbourliness. Meanwhile if you feel that you would like to get involved in this very friendly committee, where you would be most welcome, just drop me an email to needham01@msn.com and I will advise you of the next meeting.

Very best wishes to everyone whatever your age for a wonderful Christmas & a very Happy virus free New Year from the Committee

GREYSOUTHEN PRIMARY SCHOOL CHARITY

The Charity will provide funds to promote the education of persons under the age of 25 and who are resident in the parish of Greysouthen.

Such funds may cover outfits, clothing, tools, instruments or books as well as any costs associated with higher education other than those provided out of public funds.

Anyone wishing to apply should send details to Mrs Claire Raven at 5, Main St., Greysouthen, CA13 0UG or Email claireraven2002@yahoo.co.uk

NEWS FROM PADDLE SCHOOL



This term has passed as quickly as each version of the COVID "Full Opening of School" Risk Assessments, as it is updated by the next version representing the changes in government policy. We are now on version 13 since opening school in September, and the highlighted changes now look like the rainbow representing our amazing NHS staff.

This time last year I was writing to you about our wonderful Year 5 and Year 6 play, Cinderella Rockerfella, but unfortunately school performances will not happen this year.
The inspiring staff in our Early Years unit are thinking creatively about how we can recreate that very special Christmas story (COVID safe of course) to share with parents and our wider community.

The children and staff have been truly amazing throughout this pandemic and have done everything in their power to stay positive, work hard, be kind and support each and every member of our Paddle Family through these very challenging times. True Paddle spirit has been demonstrated to keep everyone going and maintain our high expectations and quality of education.

Although our celebrations may look different this year, we have lots to look forward to over the Christmas period. To replace our trip to the Theatre By The Lake, the Paddle Community Association (PCA) have very kindly offered to organise a Christmas Panto via live stream, accompanied by popcorn and juice. This is guaranteed to get us into the Christmas mood! Each child in school has designed their own Christmas card, and the Christmas elves have been booked in to decorate the school before 1st December. The famous Paddle Christmas lunch has been booked in, with all the trimmings and a few surprises for the children! It will be the first year in a long time that we will not be able to invite friends and the wider community to this wonderful occasion, but we know you will be with us in spirit.

All too quickly 2021 will be upon us, and we are all hoping and praying for COVID to pack its bags and disappear into the distance for 2021. 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 blessing. **Mrs. Dawn F. V. Watson** **Headteacher**

A FEW WORDS FROM ROBIN AND THE PARISH COUNCIL

"I'd just like to say thanks from the Parish Council to all those that have volunteered to help their neighbours or around the village in 2020.

Addition to the usual Council business, this year and next, we have been looking to improve the facilities in the playing field in ways that would increase the use by both adults, and children and we would welcome any suggestions. There is also a group planning to develop a village representation board, similar to those in other communities ; again suggestions are welcome".

The council has been continuing to meet over Zoom, and for details, contact the clerk Barbara Lamb on lamb13@hotmail.co.uk

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

HOW GREEN IS MY VILLAGE?

I don't know about you, but I've had this uneasy feeling for ages now. I should be greener. I should be more sensitive to the environmental legacy that I am leaving to the next generation and do something about it, now, before its too late. Greta says so, and the government - in its own way (not like Greta) - says so too.

The question is, what can be done - and how can it be done? And because I don't know, there is a lingering, rather circular guilt/denial thing going on – and maybe you feel the same?

Its obvious that change must be a partnership between government policy and the population. But at a practical level very little appears to be happening, although some villagers may already have made environmentally sensitive changes to how they travel or heat their homes, for example. (If so, The Gossip would love to know about it.)

Meantime, I've investigated the installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Points in rural locations like ours, and, it turns out, we can do something practical to make our village that little bit greener – and get rid of some of that lingering guilt. Find out more at greysouthen.online/HGIMV

Gwenda Ward (August 2020)



Call: 01900 824862 or email:takeawayathome@outlook.com

facebook.com/greysouthentah & instagram.com/takeawayathome/

ON BEHALF OF RESIDENTS OF BRIDGEFOOT & LITTLE CLIFTON

I would like to thank the takeaway@home team for including their neighbouring villages in their service.

Especially in lockdown, they are offering a great food service.

Thank you Alec & Sarah.

Kind regards Ian Elliott, Chairman Little Clifton Parish Council

WANTED

YOUNG ARTIST, TECHNICAL DRAWER OR GRAPHIC DESIGNER

The village map committee / Parish Council are looking for a someone in our area to help design a village map for our parish.

It would be an ideal project for an A level student and something to put on their CV.

Contact: jenniferwest64@icloud.com

SOME THOUGHTS FROM A LONG-TIME VILLAGER

What is happening to our world just now? Well, one thing is certain - we have more time to think and I've been thinking - what was life like before? Is this so entirely different?

Well, I don't necessarily think so! Watching Jennifer turn the front of her house into a Hamley's toy store display, reminded me of how we lived 50 years ago. That's how long I have lived in the village – an estate agent who never was tempted to move to any of those "wonderful" houses I persuaded all the rest of you to buy!

My memory has always been pretty sharp (although not as good as some) but I remember we had to apply 'social distancing' when we shopped at the village's only store – the Post Office. It was too small to let more than one person in at a time so 2 metre distancing was easy (although in those days it was 2 yards)!

We shopped only when absolutely necessary – i.e. when the mobile shops came to us – a bit like home deliveries but unlike today, you had limited choice. The fish van called on a Thursday evening and local man, Eldred the Butcher, called on a Saturday night in his shooting-brake with no refrigeration. The ice cream van called on Sunday and Billy Bowman's grocery van called on Wednesday and that was it.

Can you believe it but not everyone had a car – you could play games in the road without much interruption – farm tractors and cow movements were the major hazards in those days. Air pollution was not a problem although farm smells could overwhelm, especially at mealtimes. We had a good bus service and finding a seat on your own was no problem – great for social distancing - but then, sitting together was better for sharing gossip!

Even 50 years ago children went to Paddle School. The village school was closed a couple of years earlier and the money obtained from the sale of the building has and still does ensure free transport for village children attending Paddle School. In those days Paddle School had approx. 90 pupils and 4 teachers – that is one thing that has changed – 190 pupils now and a lot of staff.

Fifty years ago children played in the playing field and they still do today. The playing field and car park and allotments were bequeathed to the village by the Harris family who lived in the Mansion House at a time when the estate included a wonderful Victorian garden and greenhouses. In fact, the stone slab that is in the base of the old inglenook in my house came from those greenhouses.

People did not gather in groups – they didn't need to. The village was made up of mainly terraced houses, a throw-back to its mining origins, so you only needed to shout from door-step to door-step or across the road. Social distancing was the norm!!!

When I think about it, we may have had far less than we have now but I think people were a lot happier and certainly not as neurotic as the modern generation seems to be – or am I just a grumpy old lady desperate to get out and about again!!

A RUNNING TRAIL FOR THE PLAYING FIELD?

The playing field is a lovely, tranquil and safe recreational space in our village – we are really fortunate to have such an amenity within walking distance for most parishioners. Recently the parish council has been discussing its maintenance and how it can best meet the needs of villagers, especially those of children and young people – and the idea of creating a running/jogging trail around the perimeter came up. An additional thought was that areas outside such a marked trail could be left uncut to allow wild flowers and insects to flourish.

However, this would cost money and potential funders require evidence that a running trail would be welcomed and used. That is why we are asking you to respond to the following questions:-

1. How many primary age children in your household would consider using it?
2. How many secondary age children in your household would consider using it?
3. How many adults in your household would consider using it?

Any other thoughts or comments?

To support this project please email: gwendaward00@gmail.com with your responses to the above questions.

Many thanks from Greysouthen Parish Council.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS AND A LITTLE BIT OF 2020 HISTORY.

It is hard to believe that its 9 months since the Village Hall had to close its doors to regular hirers, planned social events and ongoing maintenance.

But this closure did not prevent some 90 volunteers, the Village Hall Committee and the Senior Social Committee rising to the challenge and it was not long till the village hall re-opened its doors following all government guidelines.

Working quickly and effectively on zoom, via email and phone, grants were applied for, wholesale and local suppliers contacted and the specific skills of some of the 90 volunteers enlisted. Grants were received from Cumbria Community Foundation, Our Parish Council, Allerdale and a village resident gave a significant contribution by allowing his young daughter to shave his head.





We were soon able to offer and deliver 4 standard food packs (kindly packed by our younger volunteers) for many locals and later tailor-made packages to help those shielding more vulnerable or no means of transport. The hall also opened as a shop on Tuesdays and Fridays. The last time the village had a shop was at least 15 years ago.

By the end of May we were able to expand the community support by offering a takeaway service using the skills of a resident chef. His varied and nutritious meals were widely appreciated throughout the community and continue to be so today.
Throughout lockdown the committee held its AGM and other meetings via zoom and worked hard to complete relevant documentation to ensure the effective management of the hall and allow us to apply for external Quality Assurance known as “Hallmark” when restrictions allow.

In June It was extremely rewarding for all the hard work of the volunteers to be acknowledged by the receipt of The High Sheriff Award. As the restrictions began to lift in July, we followed all procedures and protocols to ensure the hall was Covid secure and ready to receive our user groups. We even have our own QR Code!

Sadly, with restricted numbers and social distancing the hall has remained predominately unused by most of our user groups. Today we are in lockdown 2 and remain uncertain when the Village Hall will be able to welcome back user groups and return to its use as the only social venue the community has in which to meet and support village and private functions. We have reopened the food hub and offer support to any who need it. Please do get in touch if you need help.

As always, the village hall does not run itself and is dependent on the support of individuals. We work together as a team so that work and ideas are shared but we need more people to join us to support and be proactive in all the work and fundraising we do to keep the hall a place for the community to cherish.

As Christmas draws near, we would like to wish each one of you a safe and happy time. Let us hope 2021 sees a return to normality where we can get together as a community and celebrate, and all our user groups can return.

With Kind Regards to you all **The Village Hall Committee.**

GREYSOUTHEN TOYS DO LOCKDOWN CALENDAR



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Greysouthen Village Hall – Sort code: 16-52-21 & Account no: 32469791

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