

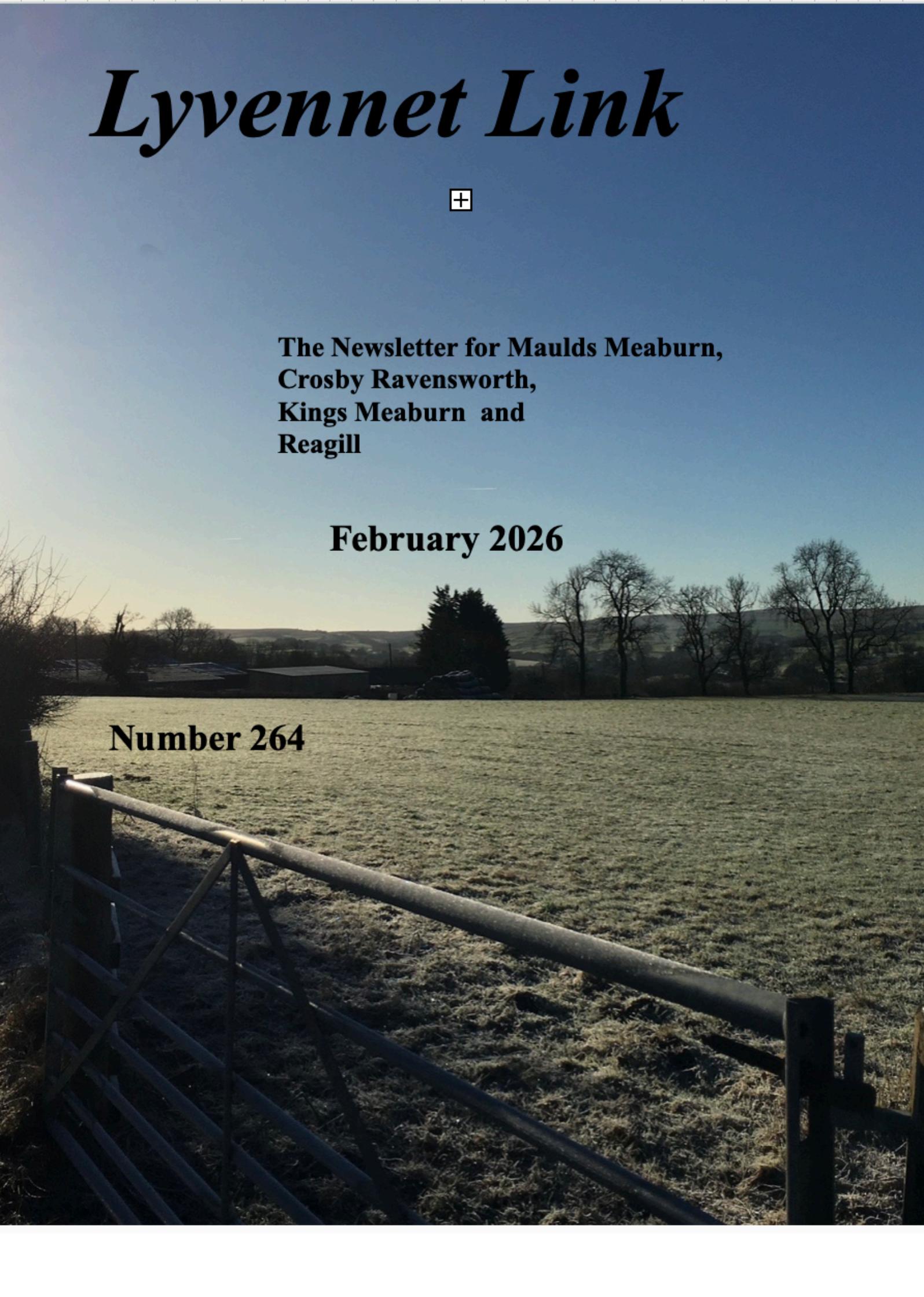
Lyvennet Link



**The Newsletter for Maulds Meaburn,
Crosby Ravensworth,
Kings Meaburn and
Reagill**

February 2026

Number 264



LYVENNET LINK

Next Issue - 1st March 2026

Copy deadline 26th February 2026

edited by Nick Thomas e-mail: nickthomas@macace.net

Articles and contributions etc., would be appreciated preferably by e-mail nickthomas@macace.net. Please send items as either text in the body of the email or as a word document. (apple-mac files acceptable)

Please do not send Microsoft publisher documents as I am unable to open them.

Welcome to the February edition of the Link

Parish Council Minutes/Agendas

Minutes of, and agendas for, Parish Council meetings are available at:

www.crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk

Planning applications are available to view on the Yorkshire Dales planning portal here:

<https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/yorkshiredales>

and on Westmorland and Furness Council's portal here:

<https://eforms.eden.gov.uk/fastweb/search.asp>

Please find below a link to the agenda for the next Maulds Meaburn Recreation Ground Trust Meeting meetings to be held at 7pm on the 2nd February 2026 at Maulds Meaburn Village institute.

<https://crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk/agendas/>

Or directly to the PDF's here:

<https://crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/02-February-26-MMRGT-Meeting-Agenda.pdf>

Services at your Parish Church of St Lawrence in February/Lent

[for other Benefice services please see www.northwestmorlandchurch]

Sunday February 1st Candlemas | 11.00am Holy Communion/ Bishop James Bell

Sunday February 8th | 11.00am Holy Communion/ Rev Stephen Tudway

Sunday February 15th 6pm Evening Prayer/Rev Stephen Tudway

Sunday February 22nd | 11.00pm Holy Communion /Bishop James Bell

Also.....

February 18th ASH WEDNESDAY, start of Lent

10.00am Holy Communion, St Lawrence Morland

6pm Holy Communion, St Michael's, Shap

More about what is going on in the North Westmorland Benefice over Lent and Eastertide

MESSAGE FROM Rev. Stephen Tudway

The churches of the North Westmorland Benefice [see * below] are delighted to announce the acquisition of a minibus for local church, school and community use. Last year, we were approached by a private donor, with the suggestion of acquiring a second-hand minibus, and offering a substantial sum towards the cost. Further large donations and grants have made the purchase possible: from private individuals; one of our Parochial Church Councils; from the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria; and from those who are supporting Janet and Tony Furlong's fundraising efforts online.

Still, we could not have gone ahead without the offer of purchasing expertise, maintenance and administrative support from a parishioner with experience in the charity transport sector. It really is a huge team effort across the whole area we serve!

We have also received a large contribution from the Diocese of Carlisle, which we expect to cover insurance and maintenance for about four years (depending on reliability!). So, we have been able to acquire a very useful resource without asking a penny from our cash-strapped churches.

We have been able to afford insurance that includes lending the minibus to church, educational and other charitable organisations, with appropriately-qualified drivers. We will be looking to put together a hire policy very soon, that will enable others to make use of the minibus.

Our local schools are very excited to have this additional resource available, and we hope it will make a real difference in our communities over the next few years.

Huge thanks to everyone who contributed, in all sorts of ways, to this project. Many readers will know that local churches are entirely dependent on local resources, and any grants that we can draw in, for our all our costs: including our ministers, activities in the community and ancient buildings.

It's an amazing thing to have achieved something, which many better-resourced churches do not manage. It's a testimony to the generosity and imagination of local people, and their willingness to step up to help the wider community.

Stephen [Rev Stephen Tudway www.northwestorland.church]

* North Westmorland Benefice =

includes the parishes of Askham and Lowther; Bampton with Mardale; Bolton; Clifton and Brougham; Crosby Ravensworth; Great Strickland; Morland (including Cliburn and Thrimby); and Shap with Swindale. Our churches and their congregations are cared for by a single priest-in-charge, but we are also blessed by the ministry of a Growing Younger Minister with a brief for children and families, youth and schools, together with several retired clergy and Readers, as well as many lay leaders of worship and other volunteers.]

Thanks, Neil!

Crosby Ravensworth Community First Responders held their Christmas meal at The Butchers Arms on December 11th 2025.

We were saying goodbye and thank you to Neil Blenkinship, who was retiring from the Team and who was an original member of the First Responder Scheme in our community.

Our Group Call Sign is 09 and I believe this is because we were one of the first (probably the 9th group) to get up and running when the scheme started. It was November 5th 2000.

Neil has therefore given 25 years of service to the North West Ambulance Service [NWAS] as a volunteer and we are proud of that as a Team and so sorry to see him retire. He has lived in the village for 52 years and is therefore well known by the local families; this in itself has been an invaluable asset to our Team, but also the calm approach he brings to often stressful situations.

Neil is the fourth long -standing team member to retire in the last 12 months. Richard Backhouse, Alex Barbour and Mark Fallon all stood down after many years as CFR volunteers in March 2025. Richard was also one of the original members of the group.

We are now down to a group of 6 members.

Jo Tombs (Team Leader), Debbie McCall, and Nicky Birkby all from Crosby Ravensworth. Caroline Harbot and Pete Button from Maulds Meaburn and Pat Russell from Sleagill.

Jo Tombs

Crosby Ravensworth Parish council needs Councillors Urgently

All houses in the parish should now have received a flyer asking for PC members, please note there wasn't a deadline to apply by. The existing PC members would encourage anyone interested to come forward.

If one person were to step down from the PC, we would lose our clerk as no one would be able to authorise her salary. All responsibility would be handed over to Westmorland and Furness council. This parish and community is proud of its past achievements, other communities look up to us. **Is this the beginning of the end or do we want to achieve more?**

Westmorland and Furness have just carried out a Community Governance Review for Parishes, it makes for very interesting reading, like us many parishes are having difficulty recruiting councillors. **CRPC cannot be added at this late stage in the consultation process. Proposals for new governance arrangements cannot be considered at the later stages of the review. A governance review is recommended to take place every 10 year.**

Will CRPC survive that long?

Great Strickland took part in the consultation; the recommendation for Great Strickland is in the text below.

All parish councils are unique if CRPC were to start the process, as we are in exactly the same position as Great Strickland, which neighbouring PC would we merge with?. Could we survive with an annual parish meeting ?, Would all the PC property be handed to Westmorland and Furness to manage?, Who would respond to planning applications? Who would manage the village greens?, Who would manage the two PC owned houses? Would they be sold or go into trust? Who would manage the trees, the street furniture and the play area?.

Gt Strickland took part in the consultation, the below is taken from the Westmorland and Furness Agenda for 22nd January 2026. Item 15, page 337

Consultation Responses *The PC held a meeting in November 2025 attended by current councillors, clerk and other local residents. They considered the options available to them – no change (which would not resolve their current challenges) Abolish the PC and become a parish meeting, or merge with a neighbouring parish. No Neighbouring parishes have expressed an interest in merging with Great Strickland parish council which essentially leaves two options – remain as a 5 member Parish council(which is likely to require new councillors to stand for at least some of the seats) . or dissolve and become an annual Parish Meeting .*

Considerations

Whilst it is unusual to abolish a parish council, in some circumstances that is the best option to ensure the identities and interests of the local community are represented, and the local governance is effective and convenient. As a very small parish (179 electors Great Strickland is smaller than some current parish meetings (although larger than some other parish councils)

On reflection, given the concerns of the parish council there are two options . Either abolish the parish council and become a parish meeting instead, or continue as a parish council with 5 members . On balance the best option for Gt Strickland appears to abolish the parish council. In consulting with local residents , however , the alternative (to remain a parish council) will be made clear, along with a call for action, to stand on the parish council going forwards.

Draft Recommendations

(1) *Dissolve Great Strickland Parish council and replace with Great Strickland Parish Meeting.*

Will Crosby Ravensworth Parish council end in a similar situation ?

It will if no-one comes forward to stand as a councillor. The best way to manage local issues and have a say in planning applications and make a difference in your local community is through your Parish council.

The full report on the Governance review can be found on the Westmorland and Furness website.

Joan Raine

Maulds Meaburn's failed Beech tree

The Beech tree lost a limb on 7th of August 2025, there has been concern and criticism within the community about the delay in addressing this matter. The PC got in touch with the National Park immediately, the September 5th minutes read, email from YDNP stating that for H & S reasons it might be safer to remove the remainder of the tree.

Knowing that would be an unpopular decision, we sought quotes and advice from arborists and further advice from the YD. Conflicting information followed along with residents opinions, but no additional advice from the YD was received.

The following meeting on November 3rd following the advice in the email from the YD "for H&S reasons it might be safer to fell the tree" it was agreed to apply for planning permission so no further delay would occur if we actual took the decision to fell. A final decision on the fate of the tree was not taken.

We finally hear back from the YDNP on the 21st of January. I was particularly uncomfortable with the advice as it contained the wording, **Although I cannot ignore the potential risk of further limb failure and other defect and health issues of this tree.** Perturbed with this statement I wrote to the officer who agreed the delay in responding was unacceptable and we were within our rights to fell the tree, however she would like a site visit with councillors/ trustee, this took place on Wednesday 28st of January.

The officer expressed a desire to save the tree by pollarding it, however there is expected to be additional costs to reduce the weight from the tree every two years, the tree also has canker.

Additional concern was expressed to me about the health of the tree by an arborist at a site visit in September regarding the fungi on the roots, I informed the YD officer of the arborist's concerns, due to the time frame there was no signs of fungi during the officers original visit, however she was interested to know if it was honey fungi as that is a progressive fungi. The arborist has got back to us but is unable to confirm if it was honey fungi.

We were assured by the YD officer that if we carry out work to mitigate failure we will still be insured. However if we do nothing our insurance is likely to be invalid.

A decision was made in July 2017 minute number 006/17 (*It was agreed the receipts from the sale of the wood was disappointing it was agreed in future the PC would consider logging and sale as firewood*). Due to the unacceptable delay from the NP and the uncertainty on the way forward we have been unable to accept any offer for the sale of wood.



Crosby Ravensworth CofE Primary School

Could this be you?

Our long-serving school governor with particular skills in finance, Tom, is sadly leaving us in the summer, so we're looking for an organised person with some experience of budgeting and financial accountability to strengthen our board of governors.

We're a friendly and effective governor team and OFSTED gave the school a glowing report last year, rating it Good in all areas. Increasing numbers of children are joining us, too, so there's a real buzz about the place.

Could this new governor be you?

It's easy to think 'someone else will do it', or 'I'm not sure I could afford the time'. We're a small community and it would be so good to have an Eden Valley resident in this role. Please think about it!

Do come and visit, meet the team and see for yourself how personally rewarding your contribution could be as a volunteer for 576 our fun and friendly school. Email me at chair@crosbyravensworth.cumbria.sch.uk or drop a note in at school and I'll call you. At present we have a full complement of parent governors.

Thank you.

Barbara Wallis, chair of governors

HOUSE FOR SALE - 4 Haberwain Lane, Crosby Ravensworth

A Local Occupancy Restriction applies. The buyers must comply with a local housing need and either live or work in the parish of Crosby Ravensworth or have a local connection.

If you are interested and would like to arrange a viewing, please contact David Britton Estates on 01768 800886.



Key Features

- Extended Modern link detached home
- A local occupancy restriction applies
- Five bedrooms
- Open plan kitchen diner
- Utility
- Two bathrooms
- Garage and parking for several vehicles
- Sought after Village location

Summary

Stunning modern five bedroomed link detached family home with over 2,000 sq feet of accommodation, in the picture post card Village of Crosby Ravensworth!



4 Haberwain Lane | Crosby Ravensworth | CA10 3HP

Price Guide £535,000

** A local occupancy applies **



david britton



WHO WON THE WELL FED CHRISTMAS CAKES.....

Christmas seems a long time ago now, but I just wanted to let you know (if you missed the updates on facebook or the whats app group) who the two winners of the well fed Christmas cakes were.

The first envelope drawn out after the School's Christmas play was bought by Jane Brain, whose Mum Betsy, lived in Maulds Meaburn for many years and always supported this fundraiser. Jane was carrying on that tradition and when I rang her with the good news, she was so surprised and taken aback that she had won.

The second envelope belonged to Alison Thwaites who was there at the play watching her grandchildren performing.

The raffle raised £216 in total, which is the highest amount to date and just amazing, given our small community. This money has been given to the Friends of Crosby Ravensworth School and will go towards funding the extra curricular activities which our children so enjoy at Crosby School.

Needless to say, the cakes did not last long and were shared amongst Jane's and Alison's family and thoroughly enjoyed.

So a sincere THANK YOU to everyone who bought an envelope.

Sarah Rogers



GREETING CARDS RECYCLING FOR EDEN ANIMAL RESCUE

I have just taken to Jennie, one of the trustees at EAR and card maker, several large carrier bags full of the Christmas cards you kindly dropped off in to the boxes left in the shelters. Jennie will now recycle them in to new cards to be sold next Christmas to continue the fundraising efforts. Jennie wanted me to pass on her heartfelt thanks for you taking the time to save these cards for her. Jennie also uses other greeting cards, such as 'Birthday', 'Easter', 'Mother's/Father's Day', 'Valentines' Day', 'Anniversary', 'Get Well Soon', 'Sympathy', 'Wedding Day' etc and recycles them in to new cards (see picture of 'thank you' card below). You will no doubt have seen them for sale in the basket in the shelter at Maulds Meaburn together with Jennie's other handmade cards.

So next time, there is an occasion in your household, please don't put the cards in your recycling bags but put them in the box in each of the shelters at CR and MM so that Jennie can reuse them to make new cards from them.

All we ask is that you don't tear the front picture part off. I can assure you that Jennie does not look at whatever the message is inside! But if you would rather not include the message inside then please cut the back off leaving a bit of spare card, as shown in the second picture below.

Many thanks for your continuing support.

Sarah Rogers and Jennie Whitfield





WHAT'S ON – COME & JOIN US!

On the FIRST WEDNESDAY of every month, COFFEE MORNING 10.30am to noon. Dates: 4 February, 4 March, 1 April, 6 May, 3 June, 1 July, 5 August, 2 September

Sat 14 February Not the Valentines Quiz! For anyone and everyone. Bar from 6.30pm, Quiz starts 7pm prompt. <https://wegottickets.com/event/689008/>

Mon 16 February MMVI AGM 7.30pm. Bar opens 6.30pm. Free first drink for all those on, or joining, the MMVI Help WhatsApp group.

Fri 20 February Fireballs over Cumbria Talk by **Nick Higgett** of Eden Valley and Penrith Astronomy group, part of the YDNP Dark Skies Festival. Did you know the MMVI building hosts the only fireball and meteor detection camera in Cumbria and monitors light pollution? Soup and roll included. 7pm. <https://wegottickets.com/event/687334>

Sat 28 February The Sunderland Point Shanty Crew. Lancashire group that grew from an impromptu pub sing to supporting the Fisherman's Friends and performing at the Edinburgh Festival. Doors open 6pm, music starts 6.30pm. Bar and finger food. Accompanied children especially welcome. <https://wegottickets.com/event/688273>

Fri 13 March A Celebration of Simon and Garfunkel Music and stories of the world-class duo performed by Tim Chu and Ian Bailey, as heard on BBC Radio. Bar opens 6.45pm, 7.30pm start. www.ticketsource.co.uk/timtone-productions

Sat 11 April Ken Nicol and Friends Legendary vocalist, guitarist and songwriter from the Albion Band and Steeleye Span, accompanied by friends on violin and pedal guitar. Bar opens 6.30pm, music from 7pm. <https://wegottickets.com/event/689266>

Sat 16 May Baking demo and foraging talk with Abbi Lawson - 11am

Friday 5 June Cocktails evening! The perfect way to celebrate summer. Non-alcoholic versions available too. 7pm

Sunday 14 June Open Gardens Buy a map and a bacon buttie at MMVI in the morning

Thur 10 September Talk – Dave Felton: Mapping Cumbria A trustee of Friends of the Lake District, Dave is the author of *The Lake District in 101 Maps & Infographics* and publisher of *Forty Farms*. 7pm

MMVI info: mmvi.org Hiring enquiries: mmvi.booking@gmail.com

**MAULDS MEABURN VILLAGE INSTITUTE
CA10 3HN**

NOT the Valentine

**QUIZ
NIGHT**

Saturday 14th February

Doors open **6:30pm** for **7pm start**

£5 per person

(Teams of up to 6 people)

email **mmvi.booking@gmail.com** to book



Raffle prizes! Interval nibbles!
Trophy and glory for the winning team!
Wooden spoon for the losing team!



Fireballs Over Cumbria

Maulds Meaburn Village Institute CA10 3HN (Near Appleby)

Friday February 20th 7-9pm

Adults £6 U18's £3 Astronomy Group members £3

Includes: Soup, Roll, Tea/Coffee and Biscuits Bar Available

Booking: <https://wegottickets.com/event/687334> or scan QR code below



**A Talk by Nick Higgett, Chair of the Eden Valley and Penrith Astronomy Group.
This event is part of the 2026 Yorkshire Dales National Park Dark Skies Festival**

In 2025, in collaboration with the University of Manchester, the Eden Valley and Penrith Astronomy Group installed a Fireball camera on the roof of the Maulds Meaburn Village Institute. This camera is the only one of its type in Cumbria and one of only a handful in Northern Britain. Nick will explain how the camera, which is part of an international network, detects both meteors and fireballs and helps in their retrieval for scientific investigation.

Nick will also show the new Dark Skies Light Meter which is also installed in the Village Institute as part of an international light pollution monitoring scheme. If the skies are clear you may even get the chance to see the Yorkshire Dales' internationally famous dark skies. Please note U18's must be accompanied by an adult.



Join us for a fun family evening at the
Maulds Meaburn Village Institute with the



Sunderland Point Sea Shanty Crew

Saturday 28th February

Doors open 6pm
Music starts at 6:30pm
£5 per adult — £1 per child
Bar snacks available



MMVI - Maulds Meaburn - CA10 3HN

A CELEBRATION OF
**SIMON &
GARFUNKEL**

AS HEARD ON
BIBIC RADIO

PERFORMED **LIVE** BY
TIM CHU & IAN BAILEY

THE UK'S NO 1
NON TRIBUTE SHOW.



"Tim and Ian moved between harmonies and shared vocals like a gestalt entity, with all the vocal nuances, dynamics and phrasing that make S&G so unique while still finding their own take on the material. Absolutely first class"



"A stunning blend of observation, interpretation, and perfect vocal synergy"



Friday 13th March 2026

Maulds Meaburn Village Institute CA10 3HN

Doors 6.45pm/**7.30pm start!**

Bar /snacks & nibbles.

**TICKETS
£15**

LOCALLY FROM mmvi.booking@gmail.com or
www.ticketsource.co.uk/timtone-productions
Box office call 0333 666 3366

Ken Nicol & Friends

Maulds Meaburn Village Institute

Saturday 11th April



Maulds Meaburn Village Institute

Saturday 11th April

Doors and Bar open 6.30pm

Performance starts 7.30pm

**Free seating, some at tables, arrive early
for best seats. Dance area too.**

Bar snacks and raffle.

Tickets £15.00

Family (2 adults 2 under 16) £30.00

Book online wegottickets.com

or email mmvi.booking@gmail.com

Ken Nicol & Wendy Ross

From the legendary folk band, Magna Carta, comes a new duo. Ken Nicol and violinist Wendy Ross combine in a tour de force of music, song, storytelling and comedy. Ken, with a pedigree including such luminaries as Steeleye Span, Al Stewart and The Albion Band, is considered one of the UK's top guitarists. Classically trained Wendy, who's worked in Philharmonic Orchestras to touring bands, adds a true touch of class. An evening that will raise the spirits, touch your emotions and make you smile.

And playing with them; Steve Conway on the Pedal Steel Guitar.

WeGot**Tickets**

[wegottickets.com/
event/689266/](http://wegottickets.com/event/689266/)



NEWS FROM CROSBY RAVENSWORTH C OF E SCHOOL

Well here we are a few weeks in to the start of the new spring term, the children having enjoyed their well deserved break over the Christmas holiday. The new term got off to a great start with a whole school forest day, making the most of the outdoors and our amazing surroundings. It was enjoyed that much, we had another one on 30th January!

The Herons class have taken part in a swimming gala and the Robins class, a tri golf event.

Looking ahead to February, a whole week of daily swimming lessons are planned which the children are looking forward to. On 11th February, the Robins are going to visit Lakeland wildlife park to see all the different animals. With love in the air, a non uniform day followed by an after school Valentine's Day Disco is planned for 13th February (after the success of last year's event).

This term we have also been very lucky to have Andi back to run an after school Art Club on a Tuesday. There has been lots of creative fun and some great artwork produced already. Take a look at the photos on our Facebook page.

Our next 'Pop in and Play' is on Monday 2nd February. All children currently not in school or pre-school, from birth up to 5 years are welcome to join us from 9.30am until 10.30am for fun and games. Please phone on 01931 715265 to

let us know if you'd like to come. Parents must accompany children. Please do pass on the message to anyone who you think might also like to know.

This

session gives you the opportunity to visit our fantastic school and meet the staff and pupils, whilst taking advantage of our terrific early years provision and your little ones can enjoy fun filled activities. If you are unable to come to this one, don't worry there is another session on Monday 23rd March.

Until next month.....

Tea Break Quiz

I had forgotten that I had these, but for a parish magazine elsewhere, well away from Cumbria, I used to compile a few trivia questions for them each month – below are a few to be getting on with.

- I. Postman Pat – what was his surname and the name of his cat.
Can you also name the Lakeland valley in which it is set?
- II. The towns of Wakefield, Morley and Rothwell collectively form what well known 'Protected Designation of Origin' (food) area?
- III. Name the only state in the USA that starts with the letter 'D' – also name both its capital and largest city.
- IV. Tyne Daly and Sharon Gless formed what duo?
- V. Name the month and year: Dave Sneddon at No.1 with 'Stop Livin' the Lie' and the space shuttle Columbia disintegrates as it re-enters the earth's atmosphere?
- VI. Year 7 maths – how long does it take to travel one mile at an average speed of 50 Mph? Give your answer in minutes and seconds.
- VII. Oliver! Is a British musical with music and lyrics by whom?
- VIII. Name the six counties that make up Northern Ireland
- IX. 'One of sixteen vestal virgins who were leaving for the coast' appears in what song? Also name the band and the year.
- X. By what name was James Alfred Wright possibly better known as and name the town in which he lived and worked
- XI. Name the month and year: Soft Cell are at No.1 with 'Tainted Love' and the first episode of 'Only Fools and Horses' is broadcast.
- XII. Year 7 maths – how can you simplify $\frac{(d^3 \times d^4)}{d^5}$

Darren Rogers. [Answers on last page](#)

A WALK AT MIDNIGHT

by William Wood

When his dog died, the old man continued the habit of going for a late walk before bed. Clive told himself it was good for him. He did not know what else to do.

"When are you going to get another dog, Dad?" asked his daughter Eleanor on one of her regular visits.

"I've told you, it wouldn't be fair," said Clive, pouring her a cup of tea. He used two hands to stop the pot from shaking. "I've not got enough time."

Eleanor knew what he meant. A dog would live ten years or more. Dad was eighty now, frail but determined to remain in this isolated cottage.

"Come on," she said, trying to swallow the strong brew. "You'll make it to ..." she was going to say ninety but realised that was not enough. "...a hundred, no problem!"

"I hope not," said the old man, peacefully enough. Eleanor smiled and they sat a while in easy silence.

"You can measure your life in the dogs you've had," Clive observed. Two of those dogs in her childhood Eleanor had known and loved. Now she had a dog and a family of her own. She contemplated her father, sitting opposite, his veined hand swinging beside the chair where often it would have rested on the head or haunches of one of his dogs. He seemed to have shrunk since the loss of Mum and shortly afterwards of their last canine companion.

"Dad, would you mind looking after Fetchitt when we go away, then?"

"How is he with sheep?" he asked. Behind his gruffness Eleanor could see that the idea of looking after a dog again appealed.

"Oh, he's quite obedient. Anyway, think about it. It's a month before we go away." Looking out of the window she added, "I hope we get some better weather. Just look at that rain."

For all his eighty years, a month seemed suddenly to Clive a long time off. A month in that moment was further than he could see. He felt like a sailor who towards the end of a long voyage unexpectedly loses his bearings.

He drifted on through the present, tidying his garden and his greenhouse, eating at the same times Margaret had set over their long marriage, though his own cooking was not up to her standards; and he still walked down the lane and round the orchard before turning in to a cold bed.

At first when Margaret had died, the necessity of feeding and exercising Rummage had kept him going. The dog had been a consolation. He and Rummage had walked the nightly round at a brisk pace. On their return Rummage would make for his basket by the Aga, circle two or three times inside it and slump down for the night. Clive would put out his milk bottle, lock up and climb the stairs to bed.

These days his nocturnal walks were slower, filled with memories. He had nothing to get back for now. No Margaret reading her novel in bed. No Rummage to say goodnight to. He tended to wait until midnight before going out. There was no one else around that late.

The evening after Eleanor had spoken about his looking after their dog, Clive clicked the garden gate behind him as usual. From the moment he stepped into the lane down to the farm he felt the strong sensation that he was being watched. It was such a wild night that he had very nearly broken his habit and gone straight up to bed. But he was restless. Something about the commotion of the elements attracted him.

He walked cautiously beneath the thrashing trees. The rain had stopped and he knew from long practice where to step to avoid the deepest puddles. The track was strewn with debris, snapped twigs and small branches, plastic pots scattered from his garden, empty fertiliser bags blown down from the farmyard. In between the gusts that lashed the treetops there were periods of calm and in that calm a steady dripping, and in the midst of the dripping something, something indefinable and alarming. Clive was being followed.

Who would want to follow him? It was more likely any intruder would want to break into the house in his absence. A burglar who had done his homework would have learned by now that it lay empty and abandoned for twenty minutes every night around midnight. There was no need to follow Clive. Rather this was the moment to take what they wanted and scarp. It did not add up.

What if the stalker was not human? For an absurd moment Clive's heart skipped a beat, a balloon of elation floated up through his chest, his brain. It was Rummage, of course. Rummage his dog, come back. That was why he was out in the night; he was looking for his dog. He almost called out, "Here, boy! Here!" Clive wanted desperately to feel the dog's damp fur, feel the warm lick of its tongue on his hand. The false floodlight of hope went out. "Rummage is dead, you silly old bugger," he told himself. A jeer of wind scurried up the lane, stirring the leaves. It tugged at Clive's jacket. He drew his lapels together and battled on.

The gate to the orchard had blown open. He stepped through, making a mental note to secure it properly on the way back. The orchard was on a slope, the top end sheltered by a line of poplars. He could not see them, but as he approached he heard their rustle and swish as they bent gracefully in the rushes of wind. The intervals of calm between gusts grew longer. Clive was now certain he was being followed. He was certain, too, that it was a something, not a someone. He could not actually hear footsteps drumming on the ground, the soil being soft after the rain, but the grass in the orchard was ankle height. Clive thought he could hear something stepping through the grass behind him.

When he stopped to listen, the sound ceased. When he moved on he was sure he heard something behind him. He trod carefully, listening like an owl, and became increasingly convinced he was being followed. But whenever he paused to locate the sound, the wind or the drone of a distant aeroplane or some disturbance in the wood masked it.

Clive was concentrating so hard on the haunting presence that at the top of the orchard he missed his turning and carried on across an open field beneath Crown Wood. He was in the middle of the tussocky heath before he realised. He turned and made back down the slope in the direction of the gap in the hedge. Looking down into the valley all was pitch dark. He could not even make out the line of the hedgerow.

If he had had Rummage it would have been simple. The dog, guided by scent, would have led them both back. Not that it was a problem. If he missed the stile first time he would just have to follow the hedge until he reached the opening. Besides the clouds were beginning to break up.

What alarmed him more was that if anything had been following him he was now likely to have to confront it. He held his breath and set a course for the hedge. He reached the stile first time, a perfect landfall. He paused before climbing over. In his relief he recognised with surprise that he had been afraid.

FELLRUNNER EXCURSIONS 2026

For the people living primarily in the North Westmorland Group of Parishes and surrounding areas, The Fellrunner Village Bus Company have again very kindly offered to provide a 16 seater bus for our community use this year. A list of the proposed trips is given below and if you would like to make a booking, please contact Mike Roulson on 01931 714457 to enquire if seats are available. Please note that for some visits there will be entrance charges payable in addition to the bus fare. **Please do book early to avoid disappointment.**

7th March....Bygone Times, A unique shopping experience on 5 floors at Grove Mill, Eccleston, Chorley. Antiques and collectibles centre, memorabilia from yesteryear, Lancashire's finest historic shopping destination. A place to visit and step back in time.

11th April....Southport, a trip to the seaside resort with England's second longest pier. Lord Street is renowned for its high street shops or take a walk around the marine lake and gardens.

9th May....Levens Hall nr Kendal. Take a tour of the privately owned Elizabethan house with its intriguing history and the world's oldest topiary gardens which are truly magnificent.

6th June....Harlow Carr near Harrogate. Enjoy a day out at the beautiful famous gardens managed by the Royal Horticultural Society. A delight in every season.

Take some refreshments in the famous Bettys Cafe Tea Rooms overlooking the beautiful grounds of the gardens

4th July....Raby Castle, Park and Gardens, Staindrop nr. Darlington. One of England's finest medieval castles. Enjoy a castle tour and a walk around the gardens. Coffee stop en route in Barnard Castle

1st August....Beamish, The Living Museum of the North. So much to see, telling the story of life in North East England from the 1820's to the 1960's. This visit will be a longer day due to the size of the site. Vintage buses and trams operate to transport visitors around the area.

5th September... Albert Dock complex, Liverpool. Another visit to this world famous iconic waterfront attraction. Visit the free Museum of Liverpool at the Pier Head or have a sail on the river Mersey on the famous ferry. Other renowned attractions, shops and museums in Liverpool city are just a taxi ride away.

10th October....A visit to Skipton officially named the happiest place to live in the UK with its well known street market, the castle, and the beautiful Holy Trinity church or a walk down to the canal perhaps to see the attractive narrow boats.

7th November...(TBC)....Holker Hall Winter Market. This visit will be weather dependant. An alternative venue will be visited if necessary in the event of a bad weather forecast.

5th December....An afternoon visit to Barton Grange for some Christmas shopping followed by an evening trip through the famous Blackpool Illuminations. We will leave Morland late morning and return mid evening.



We are no longer running the 'Bus stop' collections from your village on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, so please don't leave any donations there.

The GREAT news is we have now employed a driver that lives very close to you. This means we can collect your donations for us ANYTIME you wish. You no longer have to wait until the Bus Stop run!

Just contact us to make your collection appointment.

Complete an online form -

<https://www.greatnorthairambulance.co.uk/support-us/fundraising/recycle/clothing-collections/>

Or call us on 01325 308139 to arrange a collection. We love to accept any clean clothing, coats, belts, shoes (in pairs) and handbags.

Unfortunately we're UNABLE to collect any household textiles such as towels, bedding, curtains and table cloths and books/bric a brac as these cost the charity to be taken away which isn't great for our funds.

We employ all of our drivers and own all of our vans so you know that ALL of your donation come to us direct. We receive no Government grants, we totally depend on your donations to keep saving lives in your area.

We haven't put bags out door to door for a year now in order to save plastic waste.

All of our donations are by pre-arranged collection only.

Thank you for your donations in advance!

Tea Break Quiz Answers

- I. Clifton and Jess – the valley is Longsleddale
- II. The 'Yorkshire Rhubarb Triangle'
- III. Delaware - the capital is Dover, the largest city, Wilmington
- IV. Cagney and Lacy
- V. February 2003
- VI. 1 minute and 12 seconds
- VII. Lionel Bart
- VIII. Antrim – Armagh – Down – Fermanagh – Londonderry - Tyrone
- IX. 'A whiter shade of pale' – Procol Harem - 1967
- X. The vet, James Herriot – Thirsk in N.Yorks
- XI. September 1981
- XII. $= d^2$

Maths notes:-

Vi – don't forget that you need to convert the decimal into time (0.2 is not 20 seconds)

Xii - Using index laws for multiplication, add the powers on the numerator, giving $\frac{d^7}{d^5}$.

Then, using index laws for division, subtract the denominator powers from the numerator powers, giving d^2 .