

Lyvennet Link

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



Number 254

April 2025

LYVENNET LINK

Next Issue - 1st May 2025

Copy deadline 26th April 2025

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 April edition of the Link

Late - as promised!

Parish Council Minutes.

Minutes of 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 Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council meeting held on the 7th April 2025 at 7pm at Maulds Meaburn Village Institute.

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

Or directly to the PDF here:

<https://crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/20250704-Ordinary-Meeting-Agenda-07-April.pdf>

Cover photo by Vicky Welch

Services and events at your Parish Church this Lent and Easter

[Please see www.westmorland.church for more information around the Benefice]

Sunday April 6th Lent V 11.00am Holy Communion/ Stephen Tudway

Sunday April 13th Palm Sunday 11.00am

Holy Communion and palm crosses with Bishop James Bell

Sunday 20th 4pm EASTER Songs of Praise chosen by you.

Jim Walker on organ, led by Stephen Tudway

Sunday April 27th 11.0am All-age worship/Stephen Tudway

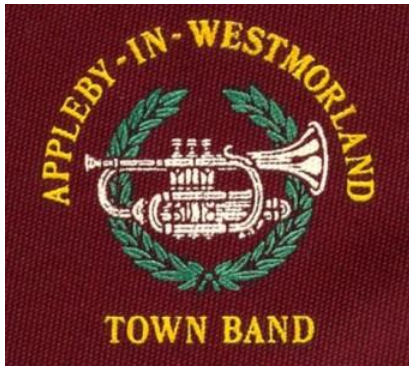
Other events during this season

April 5th: Service of welcome for the new Benefice curate, Rev Chris Smith
7pm in St Lawrence CR with Bring and Share plates of savoury finger food afterwards:

all most welcome

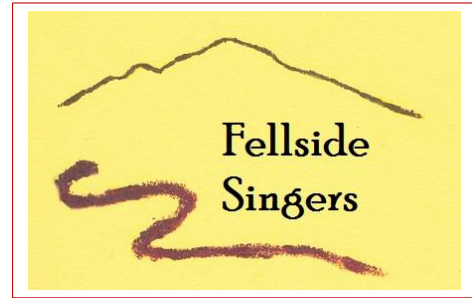
April 13th-27th: Stations of the Cross artwork installation in St Lawrence
with self-guided viewing. As usual, Church is open every day from 9.00am til 5pm

Good Friday April 18th informal service around these Stations 7pm with Stephen Tudway



APPLEBY TOWN BAND

and the
**FELLSIDE
SINGERS**



Concert

MUSIC FROM THE MOVIES

Appleby Public Hall
7.30 p.m. Friday 11th April

- Refreshments - Raffle -

Admission £10.00 (Under 18s FREE)

(Pay at the door)

For more information

Phone: Christopher Jenkin: 015396 24410

Email: ccjenkin81@gmail.com

Friday 25th April

Crosby Ravensworth

Village Hall

Six Inches of Soil (U)

The inspiring story of three British farmers standing up against the industrial food system and transforming the way they produce food - to heal the soil, benefit our health and provide for local communities. Agroecology is an approach to farming that includes 'regenerative' farming techniques that work in harmony with, rather than against nature. It focuses on local food systems and shorter supply chains and may also be our best chance in the face of climate change: it keeps carbon in the ground and creates resilient systems in the face of climate uncertainty.

Lasagna Supper at 7.00pm
Vegetarian Option Available

Film starts at 8.00pm

Film & Supper £10 | Film Only £5
07584 251352 or [lynn-](mailto:lynn-barnes@outlook.com)
[barnes@outlook.com](mailto:lynn-barnes@outlook.com) to book



LAST CHANCE TO WIN AN EASTER HAMPER



If you would like to win an Easter themed hamper including a home baked Simnel cake please pop by the village shelters in either Crosby Ravensworth or Maulds Meaburn, and:-

- 1. Write your name and phone number on a brown envelope (which will be left on the table)**
- 2. Put £1 in to the envelope and seal it. If you want more than one go, just fill in that number of envelopes**
- 3. Post your envelope/s in the tub before 5pm on Wednesday 16th April.**

The winning envelope will be drawn on Friday 18th April.

(All proceeds to go to Wheels for All, Kendal, a charity whose volunteers run an inclusive cycling programme using adapted cycles, to enable all children and adults with disabilities and differing needs to participate in cycling activities. Katie has been joining them for the last year now borrowing a handbike, without which she would not be able to enjoy cycling, after her legs stopped working properly)

GOOD LUCK AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE SO FAR WHO HAS BOUGHT ENVELOPES. Katie Rogers (aged 16)

Maulds Meaburn Village Institute



Maulds Meaburn Village Institute

Maulds Meaburn Village Institute Regular Activities

Mondays...

9.30-11.30am Badminton in the main hall. Newcomers of all abilities including beginners, are always welcome. Coffee and a chat afterwards.

2-4pm (apart from public bank holidays) the Post Office provides an outreach service, saving you a trip to Appleby/ Penrith.

Tuesdays...

On the second Tuesday of the month, Book Club meets between 10.30am and midday.

On the fourth Tuesday of the month, Yarn Group meets between 10.30am and midday. Bring along your latest project whether that be knitting, crocheting, sewing, embroidery, tapestry, whatever your craft may be.

Wednesdays...

The first **WEDNESDAY** of the month is Coffee Morning, 10.30am- midday. All welcome.

If you have bits to sell etc and you would like a table in the main hall please contact Karen to arrange.

We currently host a youth group after school on a Wednesday.

Thursdays...

Meeting of the Wine Group (meets bi-monthly) 7pm onwards. New members always welcome- come along to see what it's like. Please contact Philippa on philippa.cordingley@curee.co.uk

Fridays...

The Gather Inn occasionally happens on the **second** Friday of the month, (please check with Karen if there is nothing specific advertised). The bar will be open for all Gather Inn's. If nothing is happening you are welcome to hold your own 'Gather Inn' free of hall fees if proceeds are for the village hall.

Maulds Meaburn WhatsApp Group/email contact

Maulds Meaburn has a very successful Whats App group. It's a good way to keep in touch with things that are going on, ask questions and ask for help etc. It is not 'just for Meaburn residents'.

If you would like to join the group and are happy to put up with the occasional message not meant for the group... please email me with a mobile number and I will add you.

Alternatively, if you would like to receive a personal email outlining events at MMVI this is also an option.

Karen Asquith

hollyhowe15@me.com

All welcome to
Maulds Meaburn Coffee Morning
Please join us in the Village Hall for coffee
or tea and a chat on the first Wednesday
of the month
The next ones are
April 2nd
and May 7th



Donations welcome!
10.30 'till 12 noon

New... POP UP CRAFT STALLS

Please contact Karen on hollyhowel5@me.com if you would like a table to sell produce.



MAULDS MEABURN
VILLAGE INSTITUTE
WELCOMES YOU TO OUR

CRAFTS & GIFTS FAIR

SATURDAY 5TH APRIL

10.30AM TO 3.30PM

FREE ENTRY

QUALITY, LOCAL CRAFTS AND GOODS

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

RAFFLE

Treat yourself or find the perfect gift!



MMVI

Spring Ceilidh

with the fabulous

EDEN VALLEY

Ceilidh Band

Friday 11th April

7pm to 10pm

**Bar open from 6.30pm
finger nibbles available**



Tickets £15

Booking via hollyhowe15@me.com
or book online – follow links from mmvi.org

Wake up your wardrobe...

**Cumbria
Clothing
Collective**



**Love of Jewellery &
Arbonne stall with
Nicky Hossock**

Who?

Gail Gravett, Founder of
Cumbria Clothing Collective
and Carole Greendland,
Personal Stylist and Founder
of Wardrobe Wake-Up

What?

A fascinating update
into the clothing
industry and its
impact on our
environment.

Followed by...

A colour and styling
presentation from
personal stylist,
Carole, then a
pre-loved
clothes sale.



Where?

Maulds Meaburn Village Hall

**Thursday 10th April 2025
7-9.30pm**

Down to Earth



Launch event: Environmental funding and support one-stop shop

Tuesday 1st April, 6pm, Maulds Meaburn Village Institute

Overwhelmed by the options available?

Feel like you're missing out on help and funding?

We've brought all the current agricultural funding and support options together in one room - assembling a range of experts and advisers so you can easily find out about **free hire of aerator equipment, soil testing, nutrient management plans, invasives support** and more.

Book your place now:



anna.holliday@edenrt.org



Anna Holliday 01768 866788

- ✿ Lightning talks
- ✿ Stands
- ✿ Dinner provided*

Confirmed guests:

Andy Dyer – agricultural adviser,
Kate Gascoyne – Farmer Network,
Steven Gate – agronomist,
Stephen Henderson – Conservation Manager: Species and Habitats, Eden Rivers Trust,
Heather Ivinson – Catchment Sensitive Farming,
Pete Leeson – Woodland Trust
Ali Penny – Invasive Species Officer, Eden Rivers Trust.

For farmers and land managers in the Upper Eden Catchment.

*Please let us know any dietary requirements when you book.



EC Graham's Charitable Settlement



CHARITY

SHED SHOWDOWN

AT
MIDTOWN FARM CROSBY RAVENSWORTH CA10 3JP

SOLD OUT

SAURDAY 24TH MAY

Raising money for RABI (Mental Health in Agriculture)
& Royal Lancaster Infirmary Neonatal Unit

NEW

SUNDAY 25TH MAY

BANK HOLIDAY

SUNDAY 25TH FROM 2PM LIVE MUSIC,
ABBOTT LODGE ICE CREAM AND YONDER PIZZA VAN FROM 4PM
CASH ONLY. BAR, RAFFLE & KIDS TUCK SHOP BOTH DAYS. (NO DOGS)

SUNDAY TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE
£10 ADULTS | TEENAGER £7 | PRIMARY AND BELOW FREE
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM KITTY E: kitty.s65@btinternet.com
OR MICHELLE E: michellefisher097@gmail.com



Squirrels



Allan's Ling Wood, Crosby Ravensworth – photo Darren Rogers

A little update on all things squirrel – generally things are OK with any greys tending to be quickly dealt with(*).

I have removed a number (5) of greys out of the woods above Flass(#) which I don't have access to during the pheasant season and curiously two from the copses by the river at Hopper Hill.

However, and importantly, our reds are doing OK.

They are in most woods and in good numbers in some of those woods and seemingly healthy.

The one thing that seems to be missing, or at least I don't get reports of, are reds turning up in people's gardens and sightings in Crosby Ravensworth are now really rare.

If you see a squirrel, no matter its colour, do contact me – but asap if it is a grey. Probably in May, they will start to move about a lot and getting those reports in good time does genuinely make a difference.

My number is 715575 or Gary on 07974 788 434

* Postage Stamp Wood in Reagill – that grey is still there and traps have been out over a week now but it just won't go in one.

seems that there is now another grey in Hulls Wood – hope to get it soon.

Little Cliburn Wood – by Steven Alderton





Reagill – by Jacqui Ashton-Taylor

And then below are details of a P&DRSG event that is taking place at Shap Wells during May.

If you can make it on either day it would be good to see you there and should you attend, I have no doubt at all that you will be glad that you did.

Darren Rogers.

RED SQUIRREL CELEBRATION



**PENRITH
& DISTRICT
RED SQUIRREL
GROUP**

SHAP WELLS HOTEL
CUMBRIA



Shap Wells Hotel

Saturday 10th May 10—4pm

Sunday 11th May 10—3pm

FREE event *Donations Welcome!*



- Terry Abraham and clips from 'Cumbrian Red'.
- Alan Benson's wildlife photography talks.
- Observe red squirrels playing in the woodland.
- Various stalls.
- Refreshments available to purchase on both days.



For general enquiries please visit our website, send us an email or call us:

Website: www.penrithredsquirrels.org.uk

Email: info@penrithredsquirrels.org.uk

Tel: 07845 644035



NEWS FROM CROSBY RAVENSWORTH C OF E SCHOOL

Well, you might have heard, that April showers came early to our school, by way of a major water leak causing severe damage to the hall, last month. School had to be closed for one day to enable a big clean up to take place before it could safely re-open. However we are pleased to say that lessons continue to run as normal and lunches are being served in classrooms whilst the hall is out of action.

What a three days, our years 5 and 6 children had, together with Asby Endowed school, on their residential trip to Liverpool.

After stepping off the coach, from the journey down the M6, the children joined a curling workshop at the Flower Bowl. By the end of the session they were all starting to get the hang of sweeping and throwing. Lunch was eaten with a view of the beach and the city. It was then time to check in to the youth hostel where they were staying before taking a ferry across the Mersey. The day's activities ended with a trip to the Beatles museum where the children loved walking across the piano floor, sounding the keys. Back at the hostel it was time for tea and an evening playing board games before getting a good night's sleep, ready for Day 2.

Day 2 began with visits to a beautiful Synagogue, a Mosque, the Catholic Cathedral and the Anglican Cathedral. The children then went to the FACT Gallery to see an exhibition of computer animated art. At the university of Liverpool, the Head of the Geography department delivered to the children, a special workshop on radiation levels in Barrow. There was some shopping time at Liverpool One in the afternoon, before going on to the Liverpool Playhouse theatre, just in time for a performance of 'Pig Heart Boy' which tells the gripping story of a 13 year old boy, battling a life threatening heart condition and how a pig heart transplant was his only chance of survival. The story took the children through the boy's hopes, fears and the deep emotional impact of living with a pig's heart.

Day 3 began with a walk to the World museum where the children enjoyed a workshop at the aquarium. It gave the children a wonderful opportunity to get a close up look at sea creatures commonly found in rockpools. Afterwards there was a whistle stop tour of the other exhibits including displays on Egyptians, space, dinosaurs and mammals. Lunch was eaten in the sunshine and then the children went to the Walker

Gallery, seeing famous works by Rembrandt, Turney, Lowry (his painting of a ferry across the Mersey), Warhol and Hockney. It was then time to get back on the coach and head back to Crosby Ravensworth. There was so much to see and do in Liverpool. The children were a credit to the school with so many members of the public commenting on their manners. There are lots of photos showing lots of happy children having lots of fun, on our facebook page-please do take a look.

Looking forward to Easter, whilst we are disappointed that we cannot host our usual Community lunch due to the water damage, some Easter activities are planned for the children to take part in before term finishes for the Easter break. There will be an Easter hat/bonnet competition along with the best decorated hard boiled egg. We very much look forward to seeing the children's' entries.

After the holidays our Wrens and Robins (reception, Y1 and Y2 children) will be having a day out in the Lakes in support of their topic of transport. They will be visiting the Lakeland Motor museum; taking a ride on the Haverthwaite Railway and crossing Lake Windermere on the steamer. What a fun packed full day and a great start to the summer term.

Years 4, 5 and 6 will be participating in the Helm Wind Tag Rugby tournament at Long Marton. A whole school sponsored walk is also planned for 25th April.

We also need to tell you about our next 'Pop in and Play' session which is on Monday 12th May. 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](tel:01931715265) 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.

Until next month..... we wish you a very Happy Easter.



Butchers Arms

STARTERS

Butchers chicken liver pate, onion jam, hot toast, butter (gfr)	8
Pan fried king prawns, garlic, nduja sausage, tomato, parsley, crusty ciabatta (gfr)	9.5
Roast candy beetroot, rocket, fried halloumi, red pepper reduction, walnuts, crispy caper (gf)(v)	8
Venison + our black pudding scotch egg, bramley apple ketchup	8.5
Lancashire cheese doughnuts, cauliflower puree, parmesan crumb, pickled cauliflower (v)	8

MAINS

Crispy herb crusted pork fillet, black pudding mash, creamed cabbage, roast red onion, apple + sage reduction, crispy skin	19
Chicken, ham hock + leek pie, dripping chips, greens, gravy	18
10oz Rib-eye steak, green peppercorn sauce, dripping chips, pan fried mushrooms + tomatoes, pickled onion rings (gfr)	28
Butchers fish pie, breaded king prawn, greens, Cheddar mash	19
Vegan m'at + potato pie, chips, roasted roots (v) (ve)	18
Pan fried duck breast, buttered greens, hoi sin confit leg croquette, creamy mash, soy reduction, pak choi, hot honey, crispy seaweed	20
Mushroom + grilled halloumi burger, iceberg, pickled pink onion, roasted garlic mayo, fries (v)	16
Duxelle stuffed chicken wellington, wild mushroom + dijon cream, Serrano ham, parmesan roasted new potatoes, honey roast carrot, tenderstem	20
Battered haddock, dripping chips, mushy peas, lemon, tartare (gfr)	17 ½ 13
Pan fried lambs liver, creamy mash, smoked bacon, silverskin onion, mushroom, caramelised onion, gravy, buttered greens	17
Double smash burger, American cheese, pickled pink onion, iceberg, bacon jam, dirty mayo, fries (gfr)	17
Slow roasted belly pork, colcannon mash, balsamic glazed peaches, red onion, tenderstem, crackling, bacon cider reduction (gfr)	19
8 hour braised beef brisket, parsnip + horseradish puree, hassleback potatoes, roasted roots, red wine reduction, salted vegetable crisps	20
12oz horseshoe gammon steak, fried hens egg, roast pineapple, dripping chips, garden peas (gf)	17

Sides beef dripping chips 4.5 / pickled onion rings 4 / skinny fries 4.5 / sweet potato fries 4.5

Please advise a member of the team of any allergies or dietary requirements

(gf) - Gluten free (v) - Vegetarian (ve) - Vegan
(gfr) - Gluten free on request, please tell a member of the team

FELLRUNNER EXCURSIONS 2025

For the people living in the North Westmorland Group of Parishes and surrounding areas, The Fellrunner Village Bus Company have again kindly offered to provide a 16 seater bus for 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 an entrance charge payable as well as the bus fare.

March 1st....Boundary Mill, Colne, a favourite for shoppers. Top brands represented with lots of discounted goods for sale.

April 5th....Salts Mill, Saltaire, Shipley, Nr Bradford. Another visit to this interesting area with a village built by Titus Salt for his workers. The large Grade 2 listed mill building houses a David Hockney exhibition and numerous independent retail outlets, cafes and restaurants.

May 10th...Holehird Gardens, Windermere. A 10 acre garden managed by the Lakeland Horticultural Society with magnificent views to Lake Windermere and beyond. Entrance by donation.

June 7th....Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott. Situated on the banks of the river Tweed and set in magnificent formal gardens. A self guided house tour will be arranged.

July 5th....A visit to Haworth, the hillside home of the Bronte family. Visit the Parsonage that echoes with the legacy of its famed sisters and walk the steep cobbled streets of the village.

August 2nd....A visit to Dumfries in the south west area of Scotland. Walk along the river at The Sands or visit the many shops in the town. Coffee en route will be taken at Powfoot a small village near Annan on the Solway coast.

September 6th....A visit to Fleetwood a town which had one of the largest fishing fleets in the UK, home to the "Fishermans Friend ". There is a

covered market and independent shops, parks and gardens, or take a walk on the promenade.

October 4th....Raby Castle, park and gardens, Staindrop nr. Darlington. One of England's finest medieval castles. Explore these wonderful surroundings at your leisure.

November 1st....Ripon in Yorkshire. A cathedral city steeped in history and home to many magnificent historical buildings. There is a small Saturday market and independent shops...something for everyone.

November 22nd.....

(date to be confirmed) Ulverston Dickensian Festival. A favourite destination before Christmas to enjoy a town full of wonderful stalls, street entertainment and costume parades through the historic town streets.

December 6th....Gretna Gateway and Houghton Hall retail outlets. A visit to popular places to top up your Christmas shopping.



Crosby Preschool

Pop in 'n Play



We offer parents and children aged 0-4 yrs a monthly opportunity to visit our fantastic preschool. Come and meet the staff and pupils, take advantage of our terrific early years provision and enjoy fun-filled activities!

9.30 –10.30am at Crosby Preschool

Please let us know you're coming.

- 14th Oct 2024
- 9th Dec 2024
- 3rd Feb 2025
- 24th Mar 2025
- 12th May 2025
- 7th July 2025



"Teaching staff take good care of children in the early years. They get to know these children well. Teachers build good relationships with children and their parents and carers."

OFSTED



Crosby Preschool:

Small Steps Towards a Big Future

For any more information please call school on: 01931 715265
admin@crosbyravensworth.cumbria.sch.uk

*A love of learning for life in all its fullness John 10:10
Courage, Compassion, Community*

Admission to Crosby Preschool April 2025 (Summer Term)



If your child was born between 1st January 2022 and 31st March 2022, they will be eligible to receive 15 hours free universal nursery education from April 2025. Some children may be entitled to 30 hrs per week, depending on family circumstances. To find out more visit: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.



More information and an SA13 application form is available on the [council website](#). Forms should be returned to school, together with a copy of a birth certificate and utility bill as proof of address.

Preschool hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-3.30pm

Choose your 15 hours from within this or pay to top-up.

Children may bring their own packed lunch or stay for a school dinner.



For more information or to arrange a visit please contact the school office:

Phone: 01931 715265 or email:

Crosby Preschool:

admin@crosbyravensworth.cumbria.sch.uk

**Small Steps towards
a Big Future**

*A love of learning for life in all its fullness John 10:10
Courage, Compassion, Community*



Bear Trap

by William Wood

Bear Ovens lived alone on the edge of the village. Once a day he walked along the river bank to collect his newspaper from the bus shelter. On one particularly raw day he found a young woman huddled inside the shelter out of the wind. She looked cold and dirty. Her unwashed golden locks drooped to her shoulders from inside a woollen bobble hat. When Bear entered the confined space to pick up his newspaper from the pile she straightened up and snarled like a cornered prey. Bear was a man of few words. He pointed at his paper by way of explanation but she almost spat at him. Undeterred he leant across her and took his paper. The girl drew back and before turning to leave Bear gave her a pitying look.

"You're cold," he said. She did not answer the obvious. "Come and have some porridge. It will warm you up," he added kindly.

She eyed him with suspicion and made no reply. With a please yourself shrug Bear set off back home along the river bank. When he had gone a little way and hearing a sound behind him he looked back. The girl was following him. He paused and waited for her to catch up.

"Changed your mind?" he asked.

"No. I've made up my mind," she retorted.

"I'm Bear," he said, holding out his hand. She did not take it.

"What kind of a name is that?" she challenged.

"What's yours, then?"

"Never mind."

"That's even weirder."

They spoke no more until they reached his stone cottage on a bend in the river. He went in first leaving his shoes and coat in the hallway. She followed him into the kitchen as she was, still wearing her muddy trainers. Bear flung his paper down on the table and offered her a chair. He watched in amusement as she tried several before finding one that suited her. He had known another girl like that. She was called Snow-white, he recalled, and she was also fussy about chairs. Beds, too. Their romance had not lasted long. She told him he was too big and clumsy. She preferred small men she said, and left, breaking the seat of his favourite wicker armchair.

Finally the bus shelter girl removed her hat and jacket and settled down. Bear poured some oats and milk into a saucepan, lifted one of the lids of his kitchen range and set the pan down upon the hotplate.

"Won't take a minute," he said. "You are welcome to read my paper." She did not react though he did notice that she was beginning to thaw out. She had stopped shivering and she stretched her arms above her head in a great yawn.

"What were you doing in the bus shelter?"

"Sheltering."

"Why?"

"Boiler broken. House freezing."

This did not account for her exchanging a cold house for a draughty bus shelter. But the lack of heating and hot water did explain her physical appearance.

Soon the porridge was bubbling and Bear spooned the contents into two bowls before it thickened. The girl grabbed her bowl and put a spoonful of porridge into her mouth at once. Immediately she spat it out.

“Too hot.”

“Let it cool a minute. Here have some cream or cold milk with it.” But she stood up, looked around the room as if for the first time and said,

“I’m too tired for this. Is there somewhere I can lie down?”

“There’s a spare room upstairs,” said Bear in surprise. “First on the right. Only don’t complain that the porridge has gone cold when you come down again.”

Ignoring this remark she went out of the kitchen to find the staircase. Bear left her to it, ate his own porridge with relish and washed it down with two cups of tea. For the next hour or so he was absorbed in his newspaper. Only when he heard footsteps descending did he remember the ungrateful child as he thought of his unfriendly guest. At least she had taken off her shoes and was carrying them.

The teapot was as cold as the porridge in the pan.

“Do you want that porridge now? I can probably heat it up in the microwave.”

“Yuk!” she exclaimed

“Make fresh?” he offered despite himself.

“I’m fine.” She put on her hat and jacket, pulled on her shoes and let herself out.

For the next few days, especially when he fetched his paper Bear wondered whether he had imagined that surly young woman. Then one day, returning from a shopping trip he found a hand-delivered letter on his doormat. It contained a picture of a young girl whom he hardly recognised at first. She was smiling in sunlight, her golden hair aflame against the blue sky. The portrait was head and shoulders only but he could see she was wearing a cream, satin blouse. It took him a while to connect this vision with the bus shelter brat.

The message, beautifully handwritten in blue black ink on vellum was clearer still:

“My own dear Big Bear,

Sorry I was a bit gruff when we met. Bad hair day. Now got the house back in order. Come round and enjoy some properly cooked porridge. You can try my bed, too, if you like.

Love from Ursula, your little bear.”

She had added an icon of a teddy bear and a kiss emoji.

Gentle Bear was horrified. What was this minx playing at? Probably some kind of honey trap. He wasn’t going to fall for it. He reinserted the photo and the letter into the envelope and dropped it into the waste paper basket.

GREAT NORTH AIR AMBULANCE BUS SHELTER COLLECTIONS HAVE STOPPED.....BUT.....



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!