

July 1 2020.....Number 201

**Crosby
Ravensworth,
Maulds Meaburn,
Kings Meaburn
and Reagill**

NEWSLETTER

LYVENNET LINK

Next Issue - 1st September 2020 **Copy deadline 25th August 2020**

c/o Nick Thomas, Brackenslack Cottage, Maulds Meaburn. Tel. 01931 715 010

e-mail: nickthomas@macace.net

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor, the Parish Council or MMVI. The right to edit any contributions is reserved and inclusion is subject to available space. 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.

Text as an image file (e.g. a scanned document or photographed page) is not acceptable.

This edition is being sent out as an email.

It has been kindly distributed by Darren and Sarah Rogers and Kitty Smith.

Their contact lists will not reach everybody, so please feel free to distribute this as you wish.

Welcome to the July edition of the Link.

The electronic version of the Link seems to increase in size each month and this month is no exception.

There will be no issue in August.

The September issue will also be an electronic one. Beyond that is unclear.

Please keep contributions flowing for the next issue.

An excellent suggestion was given to me that as the show was no longer going ahead readers could photograph anything they might have exhibited and send it into the Link.

So please do. You have between now and September to photograph anything you wish that may have been included in the show, from gardens to goats, cakes to cauliflowers, dahlias to dogs with the waggiest tail? just photographs even! When they're looking at their best take a few snaps and send them in, I'll try and publish them all.

Many thanks again to Darren Rogers and Kitty Smith both for contributions and for distributing the Link through their contact lists.

Special thanks to Duncan Priestley, headteacher at the school, for asking pupils to share their Covid experiences with us. Following a suggestion from Kitty, pupils were asked to write 100 words about their time during lockdown. I'm sure you'll agree that their work is brilliant and they are given pride of place at the beginning of this issue.

This is an anniversary issue since it is 20 years since Brian Knowles and others published the first edition.

To mark this, the second part of the history of parish magazines continues with the history of the Lyvennet Link

Wishing all readers good health through these unusual times.

Nick Thomas.

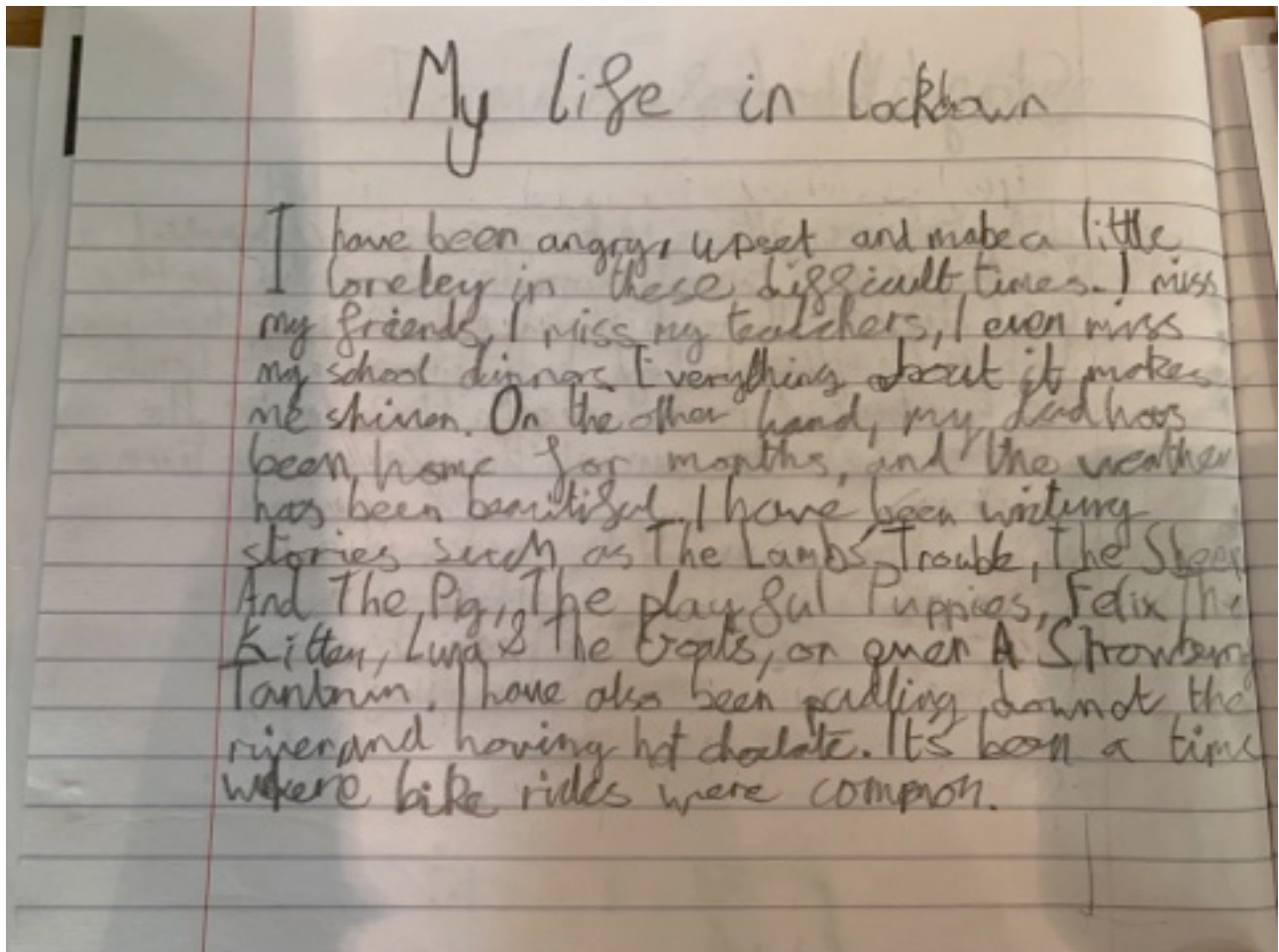
My life in lockdown by Frankie

Suddenly in March we weren't allowed to play out. Me and Ruby didn't get it, but our mums told us it was to keep us safe.

I have to do my school work at home because of the Coronavirus. At first we were only allowed out of our house for one walk a day.

I spent a lot of time doing craft stuff and playing with my Lego and other toys.

I wasn't able to see my dad for 9 weeks. That made me very sad. Me, Mam and Gran walked a mile a day in June for the Eden Valley Hospice.

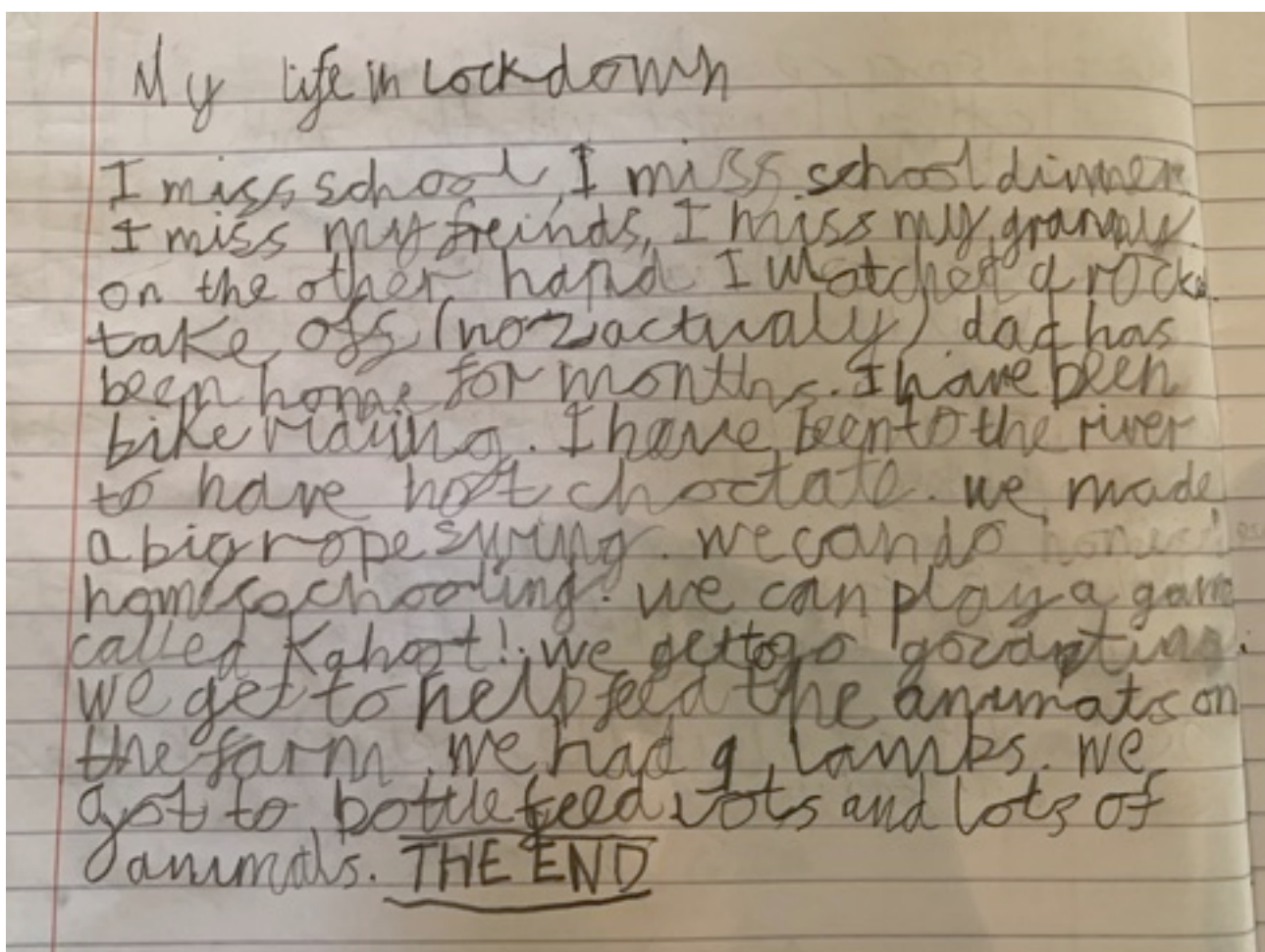


Ethan

My life in lockdown

My life in lock down has been hectic as I have had to spend it with a bunch of babbling baboons (AKA my family). At the start all we did was hard grafting and laying cement for our new patio. I have been biking and swimming and have started baking and cooking more. Some of my dishes I have made are: Gnocci, cakes, sushi and lots of pasta sauces. My mum's birthday also took place so I carved her a hare out of wood and made her a cake. My dog Charlie has been keeping me from dying of boredom so I owe him a lot.

By Poppy Cruickshank ☺



Ayla

While I am in lockdown, my life has been ok. I get more family time because my dad is working in his office (in HIS garage). Also I get to see my besties which is great! But I was quite bored before I came to school (I am in school now). I have been doing lots of training for my triathlon training and lots of other sports! (I love sports)! I am quite happy because my diabetes is going really well, which is making my life easy and happy! And I can't wait for everything to get back to normal!

Neev Renton 😊

My Life in Lockdown

In Lockdown my life has been boring but also fun. Unfortunately, I've been stuck in the house with my older brothers! Luckily, I was still able to ride horses so I wasn't completely bored. I also got to see my sheep. On the weekends I've seen my friends! Since I'm going to secondary school soon I have most of my uniform. My brothers and I have been fighting a lot so I have many bruises on me from getting kicked. Overall, my life in lockdown has been fun, boring and interesting.

😊By Sophie Thompson😊

My life in lock down

When I was in lock down I did lots of things. I got a parrot 3 weeks into lock down and it can say "what you doing". I Went on loads of walks and went down to the river and went on a fell and went to Swindale and had lots of fun and went under a waterfall. I had a water fight with my friend. At the river I went under the bridge. Me and my friends went to a different river and my friend fell into a deep part of the river. Not long ago my parrot sat on my hand.

By Lacey

The first time I thought about lockdown, I expected to enjoy it for the first three days or so, and then get bored. I couldn't have been more wrong.

I have been standing in ponds, getting wet and having fun. I have hatched goslings, 7 to be exact. I have swam. I have spent time with my family. I'm starting to think lockdown is a holiday, just with loads of homework.

Things have been a lot less busy, what with barely anyone coming to see us. When I'm not working, outside or on an expedition with dad, I'm at home, happy. Danny

My Life in Lockdown

My life in lockdown has been fun and a little boring. At the start I thought it was going to be very boring but actually I like it. I do miss my friends, but I have seen some. I've been spending lots of time with my family like playing boardgames going on walks and watching films. We have been on many walks to places we've never been. The best place we've been to is Haweswater where we saw some remains of the flooded houses. I also got some lockdown pets. I got 3 little FISH which are really fun.

By William

MY LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

My life in lockdown has been good because I have been able to spend more time with my family and in my garden. I have been for walks, helped lay a new patio and I have also helped paint our new shed.

We visit my grandads grave most weeks at Penrith cemetery which is nice.

I have enjoyed FaceTiming my cousins, Freddie and Tommy who live in Brighton and I'm looking forward to being able to play with them again sometime.

I have enjoyed mum not having to rush around as much so we can do nice things together.

Kaylan Ferguson

Coronavirus has made me sad. I miss my friends and after school activities. I also miss my grandmar, nanny, grandad and Uncle Neil. I have been on my bike a lot and swimming in the river. I have liked doing cooking with my mommy but it's not always been nice to eat ! Neev and my mom had birthdays and I helped bake them a cake. I have played bingo on the green and i won some flowers for my mommy. I am looking forward to going to France again and seeing my french friends and skiing.

Iona

NEWS FROM CROSBY RAVENSWORTH C OF E SCHOOL

It was great to have our Yr 6s return to school last month, all four of them, and they have adapted very well to the new rules to ensure that everyone is kept safe whilst in school. As well as lessons they have been enjoying our great outdoors too, making the most of the warm weather, enjoying a walk around the village and also a bike ride to Kings Meaburn and back, returning to school just in time for a packed lunch. Our remaining children continue to be homeschooled via resources on our website for lessons. They also have access to a daily PE video, a 'Thought for the day', 'Music of the day', 'Fact of the Day' and resilience videos in our church corner. Also on our website (click on the 'Parents' heading and then the 'Home Learning') you will find our 'Hall of Fame' page where our children show off what other work they have been doing. Reuben has been researching albatrosses (did you know they have a wing span of 11 feet?); Danny has been writing poetry and has also had two more goslings hatch; and William made a beautiful collage of Shap Abbey (pictured below), to mention just a few.



Usually at this time of the year with only a few weeks left until the end of term and the end of another school year, we would be busy preparing for Sports Day, Prize Day, the Leavers' Service and celebratory Community Lunch but of course these have not been able to take place this year. We would like to thank all our children (and parents too) for all their wonderful work which they have done whilst not being able to come to school. We would particularly like to say a special 'Well Done and Good Luck' to our VIP Year 6s who after the summer break move up to their chosen secondary school. We will miss them but know that they will keep in touch. So to everyone, enjoy the summer holidays and keep safe. Until September and the start of a new school year.....

Local Heroes

The Lyvennet Health and Wellbeing Lunch club have set funding aside and are looking for nominations for someone who you feel has gone over and above to help you during the pandemic. A limited number of vouchers are available to spend at The Butchers Arms.

Nominations close on Sunday 12th July, please give the address of the person you have nominated and send them to Joan Raine, Dalefoot, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, CA10 3HY or email to joanraine@hotmail.com

UPDATE FROM MAULDS MEABURN VILLAGE INSTITUTE

As you know, MMVI has been closed for its usual activities and events since 23rd March, following the country wide imposed lockdown due to COVID 19. Latterly it has only opened once a week for the visiting Post Office, deemed an 'essential service'.

Following the Government's most recent announcement on the further relaxation of the Lockdown Rules you will have heard that a number of venues including village halls , CAN re-open as of 4th July. 'CAN' rather than 'MUST'.

In anticipation of that, we, the Trustees have considered the resulting guidance issued and were represented at a recent meeting organised by 'ACTion with Communities in Cumbria (which links the village hall network) on the very subject of re-opening. This was then discussed by us, at an extraordinary meeting held on 29th June.

Whilst we too, like you, have missed our monthly get togethers at 'coffee mornings' and 'afternoon teas' and other regular group activities held at MMVI, all of which bring our community together, YOUR safety and that of OUR VOLUNTEERS (on whom we rely so much) is of the paramount concern to us. It is therefore, for that reason that we have decided NOT to re-open on 4th July, and to remain closed. We will keep the situation under regular review in light of further guidance as and when issued and will keep you updated.

Thank you for your understanding.

Margaret, Vanda, Sarah, Brian, Bob, and Adele (The Trustees of MMVI)

Crosby Ravensworth Show

Dear all,

I have been asked to let you all know that we have decided to cancel the show this year.

We understand how strong feelings have been on this matter from many perspectives and the wish of committee members to have clarity. As we don't feel able to say where government restrictions and guidance will be by the end of August and with different organizations taking different views, we feel this is the only way we can provide the clear answer that people require.

We had hoped to be able to provide some light relief and an opportunity for the a social distanced "get together" and celebration of the local area and its produce to the communities we serve, but instead hopefully we can channel this into an even better show next year!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters over the years from exhibitors and visitors to trade stands and suppliers. We wish you the best for this difficult period and look forward to seeing you next year.

Many thanks,
India

AIR AMBULANCE COLLECTIONS

The collections are to re-start on Wed 8th July, Wed 12th Aug, Wed 9th Sept 14th Oct, 11th Nov & Wed 9th Dec.

Items collected are Curtains, bedding (no duvets or pillows) towels, clothes, Shoes, belts, hats, scarfs, books (hard & soft back) handbags, costume jewellery, Cd's, ink jet cartridges, mobile phones.

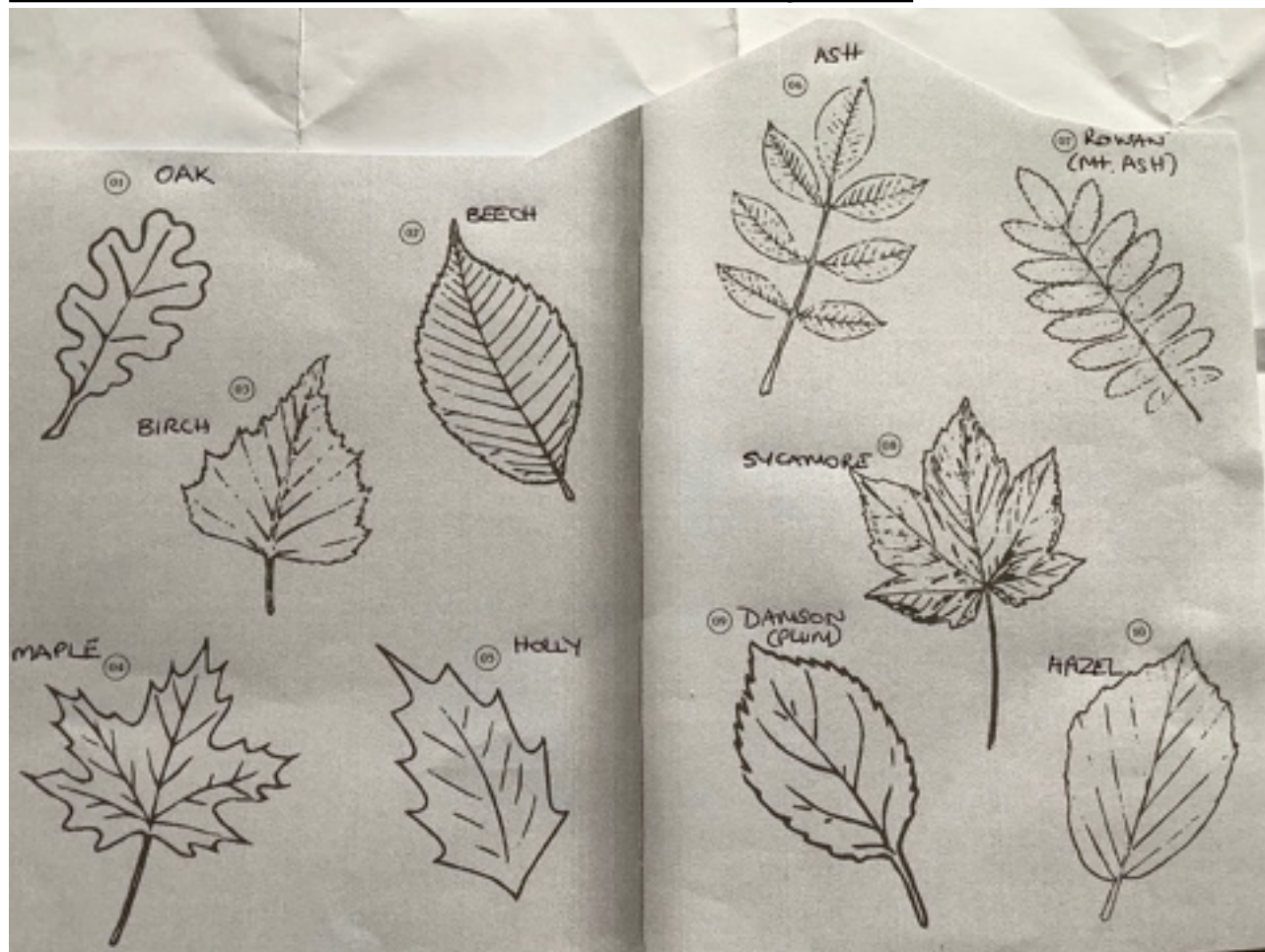
Please no Bric a Brac.

Leave items in the bus shelters at CR,MM, Reagill & KM before 9am collection on the day.

Further info contact Kitty 01931-715375

Kitty.s65@btinternet.com

The Answers to last months leaf Quiz from Vicky Welch



From your Rector, Stewart Fyfe

Dear all

As summer is upon us and lockdown begins to ease, we enter a new phase of Church life. As I write, we are very unsure what the path out of lockdown will look like. We know we are able to resume some form of public worship in Church from 5th July, but we are still awaiting instruction about what conditions and restrictions will apply. We have found that there has been a disconnect between government announcements about what is permitted and what the detail of the regulations actually require. Consequently I am not currently able to tell you what services will be available, or where, over the summer.

One casualty of this is that opening our churches for private prayer has been significantly more complicated and burdensome than we anticipated. Not only are the conditions very onerous, but it is necessary to have the churches supervised at all times during opening hours. The result is that currently only Crosby Ravensworth St Lawrence is open (**on Sundays from 10:00 to 12:00hrs NOTE not 6-7pm** and by appointment alex@ydfc.co.uk). Brougham Chapel is also available by appointment. We hope that, as the restrictions ease, it will become possible to open more of our churches, without the intrusion of a supervisor.

We will do what we can to restore the physical worshipping life of our churches as soon as possible. Please keep an eye on our website (www.northwestmorlandchurches.org.uk) for details as they emerge. In the meantime, our **online services** will continue until at least the end of July:

- On our **YouTube** channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6iZVadGymIBC04aEEOJryw?view_as=subscriber
- Or by **telephone**: 017683 89324

Small family weddings are now permitted in Church with up to 30 guests, as are funerals with close family members only in attendance and we hope that Baptisms may also recommence shortly.

We pray for God's blessing upon you and for health to you and your families.

A History of the North Westmorland News

In a recent issue of The Link, Darren Rogers raised the interesting question of the local parish magazine history. This sent me to my little archive, which goes back to January 1974.

In those days, it was the 'Parish News-Letter', and it was typed onto skins and run off on a Gestetner duplicator.

It was on foolscap, a single sheet, printed portrait style.

It covered three parishes – Morland (including Newby, King's Meaburn and Sleagill), Great Strickland and Thrimby (Little Strickland).

We could pick out all sorts of interesting names, but one item that did spring out, in November 1974, was the baptism of James Rebanks, now a very well-known name locally and beyond.

In October 1979, we were told that there had been a Diocesan competition for parish magazines - we got the wooden spoon.

At the very least, the judges suggested, we might turn the paper sideways and fold it in the middle. That format, now on A4, is still with us.

About 1990, there was a distinct change of style: a new-fangled Word Processor had been used, and the magazine was run off on a photocopier.

I remember that the job was still small enough for the copier to be in the Vicar's study and for him to have it running while he got on with his work.

Somewhere along the line, the then Vicar of Appleby, Peter Norton, acquired a high-speed copier, which also collated the sheets.

Two of us went along and were hugely impressed by the speed at which the copies were run off.

We then spent the rest of the day pushing them through the non-automatic stapler. Boring!

After that, the job went to Reeds, the printers in Penrith. More recently, and for quite a few years, it has been printed at Cerberus in Kirkby Stephen.

In 1994/1995, Cliburn was added to our group, and about the year 2000 the magazine became the 'Benefice Newsletter'.

Four years later, Crosby Ravensworth and Bolton joined the group (or did the group join Crosby Ravensworth and Bolton????) and the name then became the 'Leith and Lyvennet News'.

At the same time, and after great debate, we started taking paid advertising.

There was a subtle change in February 2009, when the name became the 'Leith-Lyvennet News', and in April 2017, it became the 'North Westmorland News', with the arrival of Clifton and Brougham, and Askham with Lowther.

And all along the line, our magazine has been distributed around the parishes by a great team of volunteers. In addition, nowadays, it goes far and wide by email.

And a tale could be told, as well, of a succession of editors and compositors, including the period when it really was 'cut and paste' and then posted off to North Shields to be set on a computer by a friend of Doreen Robinson.

There's a huge amount of local history buried here.

It would be good if somebody had the interest and time to trawl through the whole lot and remind us of lots of interesting people and events.

Over to you.

David Jones

Cuckoo Poem

The cuckoo comes in April
Sings it's song in May
Changes it's tune in the middle of June
And in July it flies away.

This poem was sent by Marion Jackson
from Shap.

Cuckoo's have been heard this year at Oddendale, top of Bank Head on the
Orton Road, Wet Sleddale, Ullswater & Shap wells.
Information given by The Wednesday Walking Group.



DID YOU KNOW.....?

You can now buy duck eggs in Maulds Meaburn.

**They are FOR SALE outside Hill House which is the white house,
on the left, two before MMVI, if coming from Crosby OR second
on the right after MMVI coming the other way.**

They are priced at £2.50 for six duck eggs.



WE'VE GOT THE GREEN LIGHT!

We'll be back open on the 4th July with the below hours. We will run Bar and Takeaway service for the first week with a view to opening the restaurant Wednesday 15th July. Please ring to book a table. We look forward to seeing you all soon! ❤️

	Bar Service	Takeaway Service <u>ONLY</u>
Saturday 4th	12pm - TBC	4pm - 7pm
Sunday 5th	12pm - TBC	2pm - 7pm
Monday 6th	CLOSED	
Tuesday 7th	CLOSED	
Wednesday 8th	5pm - TBC	5pm - 7pm
Thursday 9th	5pm - TBC	5pm - 7pm
Friday 10th	3pm - TBC	5pm - 7pm
Saturday 11th	12pm - TBC	4pm - 7pm
Sunday 12th	12pm - TBC	2pm - 7pm

Please bear with us whilst we ease back into our usual services. We will monitor the above times for the coming weeks



Takeaway Menu

Week Commencing Wednesday 1st July 2020

Please place orders by ringing us on 01931 715500

OPENING HOURS

Monday/Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday/Thursday/Friday/Saturday	4pm - 7pm
Sunday - (roasts available)	2pm - 7pm

MENU

12" Pizza (gfr) - Margarita (v)	£10
- Veggie feast (v)	£10
- American Hot Meat Feast	£10
- Ham + Mushroom	£10
- Four Cheese + Basil (v)	£10
- Cajun Chicken, Sour Cream + Corn	£10

Fish, Chips + Mushy Peas, Tartare (gfr)	£10
Vegetable Chow Mein, Oyster Sauce, Noodles, Soy (vr)	£10
Chicken Kebab, Salads, Garlic Mayo, Chilli, Flat Bread, Fries	£10
Chicken Korma, Fragrant Rice, Mango, Naan (gfr)	£10
Butchers Big Mac + Fries	£10
Chicken Satay, Noodles, Sweet Soy	£10
Crispy Chilli Beef, Fried Rice, Prawn Crackers (gfr)	£10
Caesar Salad, Anchovies, Parmesan, Croutons (vr)	£10
Sticky Chilli Pork Ribs, Fries, Slaw	£10
Scampi Tails, Dripping Chips, Peas, Tartare	£10
Chicken Vindaloo, Fragrant Rice, Mango, Naan (gfr)	£10

(gfr) - Gluten Free On Request (vr) - Vegetarian on request



Sides - Skinny Fries / Dripping Chips / Slaw	£2
Garlic Bread Pizza with Cheese	£5
Kids Pizza (choose from above)	£6
Chicken Nuggets, Chips + Peas	£6
Fish, chips + peas	£6
Cheeseburger + Fries	£6

**PLEASE ASK ABOUT OUR DESSERT SELECTION
+ TAKEAWAY DRINKS!**

How It Works

Ring us with your order on 01931 715500 from **3pm Wednesday - Saturday and 12pm Sunday.**

Select a collection time. We will limit to 10 minute time slots to make sure we comply with the advice. Please turn up to collect your order at the agreed time.

Please pay for your order over the phone with a debit/credit card. I'm sorry we will **not be accepting cash.**

We thank you for your custom at this worrying time and we very much look forward to resuming the normal personal service we usually offer.



HAVE YOU RUN OUT OF READING MATERIAL? IF SO MMVI CAN HELP.....

After weeks of staying at home, do you need some more books to read? If so there are shelves and shelves full of books, both adults and children's, on the shelves at MMVI. We have photographs of the shelves and lists of other available books which can be emailed to you, for you to then select which titles you would like. We can then arrange to drop them on your doorstep or leave them somewhere for you to collect. If interested please email sarrog@btinternet.com or ring Sarah on 715575, or m.jarvis746@btinternet.com, Margaret on 715441.

Monthly Weather Summary - May 2020

Very dry and sunny - cool start, warm end.

May might not have been quite as good a month as April, but it was still very favourable and most notable for being dry and very sunny and having a quite glorious final week.

The first half of the month was fairly cool with ground frosts being common, the final total (11) being above average for the month.

After some rain on the 1st apart from a few bits 'n' bobs, the next meaningful rain during the month fell on the 22nd.

During a colder snap 11-15th the lowest May temperature at this site was recorded.

After a more changeable period 16th to 23rd which brought that rain later in the period, it was a case of increasing temperatures and virtual wall to wall sunshine with the final four days especially magnificent.

MSLP of 1021.7 Mb was +6.8 Mb above the local average for the month and overall a mean minimum of 4.80c and a mean maximum of 16.54c saw the temperature 0.31c above the eleven year average for this site.

It was the warmest since 2018 and of the twelve now recorded, seven have been colder and four have been warmer - the highest maximum temperature recorded being 24.8c (29th), the lowest minimum -3.5c (14th).

Rainfall of 25.5 mm (Crosby Ravensworth School 25.0 mm) was 42.9% of average for 2008-19 and made it the wettest May since 2018.

Of the thirteen now recorded, three have been drier and nine wetter.

During the month the following was recorded:

hail on one day (1st) -- there was three air frosts.

A mean wind speed of 8.19 mph was brisk and the maximum gust of 54 mph (22nd) was only the second time to have exceeded 50 mph in my records.

SPRING

Across Cumbria the season will be remembered for being very dry and sunny - after a wet first half to March (which saw the month finish wetter than average in spite of no rain falling in the final 14 days), the rest of the season assumed drought like conditions.

April saw no rain for 20 days between the 6-25th and only a little light rain at the month's end saw the percentage fall nudge up towards 30%.

May was similar, but slightly wetter.

Whilst all three months were warmer than average, March was only marginally so and after a cool start, May's final mean temperature was saved by a warm finish. That leaves April and which was the stand out month for both warmth and dryness - but then both April and May were especially sunny, indeed, record breaking. Spring 2020 with 137.4 mm (68.8% of average) of rain at Maulds Meaburn (Crosby Ravensworth 158.9 mm) has been the driest since 2010 and is the 2nd driest of the thirteen now recorded.

A mean temperature of 8.37c is the warmest since 2017 and 0.53c above average.

Overall it is the fourth warmest of the twelve now recorded.

Confused in the Vegetable Patch!

Just unravel the letters to reveal what's growing this year....answers next time!

Seotmoat
Roctars
Intm
Rapspin
Picilphleerps
Sanernunerb
Ligcar
Doneronsio
Smoreyar
Sagedenpar
Slaprey
Orgeettuc
Mythe
Bumcruce
Groanoe
Cutteel
Slabi
Trocke
Geas
Toespoat
Trebttoo
Shawrdiscs
Licbrooc
Barenchenfs
Shcanip
Badrobsane
Tonguemat
Wartbessirer
Stackblurrcan
Spearribers
Breebulrise
Hubbarr
Groinspinno

Vicky Welch

A selection of genuine misprints found in Parish Magazines.

God is good. The vicar is better

Local High School Dropouts Cut In Half

**Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church.
Please use large double door at the side entrance.**

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours!'

New Study Of Obesity Looks For Larger Test Group

Cold Wave Linked To Temperatures

Next weekend's Fasting & Prayer Conference in Whitby includes all meals.

Fifth Sinday is Lent.

**Sunday morning sermon: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.'
Sunday evening sermon: 'Searching for Jesus.'**

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone it is hard to love. Say "Hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off- let the Church help.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

More next time - Darren Rogers

Lyvennet Health and Wellbeing Lunch club remote fundraiser.



What was expected to be a very low-key fundraiser, raised far more for charity than the organisers expected in this time of social distancing. The village shelter at Crosby Ravensworth was the hub of the activity for raising funds for the Alzheimer's society cupcake day, the steady stream of villagers then heading to the cake deposit box at Midtown farm. The two hubs, 300mtrs apart saw a steady stream of supporters throughout the day, with cakes at one venue, a quiz, novelty cards and a donation box in the other. Lyvennet Health and Wellbeing committee member's, decorated the two venues to highlight the fundraising, and took advantage of the Village face book page to advertise to the local community. With the small membership of the village group we thought we would be lucky to raise £50-00 as we weren't selling cards, that had been created by the committee, we were just requesting donations. Michelle Fisher a keen baker kindly agreed to bake and design some blue themed cupcakes for the event, blue to tie in with Alzheimer's forget me not logo.

Joan Raine who along with Hazel Blenkinship arranged the event, said following a chance meeting with Hazel, we managed to raise over £200-00. That chance meeting is now jokingly referred to as the "bored" meeting, we decided we needed a little gesture to lift peoples spirit's and came up with the idea of creating novelty shaped cards with a teabag in them, we also added a little verse.

Joan said, the idea really took off, with cards being posted across the country to Merseyside and Wales and of course closer to home; we have received some lovely

feedback from the recipients, via the senders. In our community we have lots of residents shielding and it's a very lonely time for them.



Joan and Hazel run a monthly lunch club at the Community Pub Crosby Ravensworth where folks living in rural isolation can meet up, sadly with lockdown the lunch club hasn't been held since March, Hazel said, we now have self-isolation which is a step way beyond the loneliness of rural isolation, we just felt we wanted to cheer people up and let them know people were thinking about them.

The event was held on the 14th June a rather strange coincident was brought to the villagers attention when Sass Robertson posted on face book an extract from a book dated 14th of June the poignant message was written by a

person who was asked to deliver grapes to folks who were feeling down or had been in hospital, 20 years on and one of the grape recipients had passed away, when the deceased lady's, sister found the card which had accompanied the grapes, she had mentioned to the writer how much the card and grapes had cheered her sister up. It was a spine tingling moment as cheering people up is the very result we were trying to achieve and how strange it was dated on the very same date said Joan.

The winner of the numbers of sprinkles on the cupcake was Lynne Saggars, who was delighted with the prize a box of Michelle's cakes, which due to social distancing was delivered over her garden wall.

On hearing of the amount of money we had raised Michelle Fisher commented, that is just typical of this community, I love living in this village with its community spirit! Hopefully a little of Michelle feel good factor rubbed off on everyone who took part in the fundraising or who received a card and the feel good factor remains with them for some time, which was exactly the result the health and wellbeing committee was trying to achieve. Joan added mischievously if that result is what we can achieve from a "bored" meeting; imagine what we could achieve with a board meeting.

Joan Raine

Photos of the feel good novelty cards for lockdown, which came with a tea bag and came with this little verse, I'd like to come and visit you, and have a cup of tea, but as this isn't possible, have this one on me.



The photo dated Wednesday June 14th is from an old Friendship book from 1978, the very same date in 2020 we held the fundraiser for Alzheimer's. The message we were relaying with the cards and attached teabags was to cheer folks up during lockdown, just letting a loved one know we care when we cannot visit.

Or send to someone who lives alone to brighten their day

I'm sure you'll agree that 42 years on the message printed on the date of the Health and Wellbeing fundraiser is a strange coincidence. Joan Raine

job as His helper. He must need someone to
keep the world right. Why not me?"
Why not, indeed?

WEDNESDAY—JUNE 14.

ONE good turn deserves another, so the saying goes.

Some twenty odd years ago, I was sent some cases of grapes from South Africa to distribute as gifts where they would be appreciated. Of course, I was pleased to do so, and it was no bother to arrange for bunches of grapes to go to various hospitals along with a little card telling where they'd come from.

One bunch went to a patient down in the dumps after a big operation. The grapes, or perhaps it would be truer to say the knowledge someone somewhere cared, helped her on her way. She put the little card aside. Now, 20 years later, she has passed on, and when her sister was going through her things, she came across the card. Remembering how the grapes had cheered her sister, she has arranged for ten bunches of grapes to go to others who may equally enjoy and be heartened by them.

Which is why I'm inclined to rewrite the old saying as — one good turn begets another. It may not happen right away, but it will eventually. Of that I am sure.

Red Squirrels

June has been a very busy month with a significant increase in the number of sightings of greys.

These have mainly been in the area of Brackenslack Lane, with the odd one around Crosby Ravensworth and the odd outstanding one up in Longhill Wood.

Progress is being made though in getting them dispatched and at the time of writing (23rd) we are now up to 12 greys having been dispatched in our parish.

The use of traps (accounted for 2 of the 12), an increase in the number of feeders and now with the use of two motion camera's has helped to keep tabs on them ... but also tabs on the reds.

Whilst this recent boom in greys is unwelcome, there is also much to be happy about.

The number of sightings of reds, including those with young has also increased and the spread of the area in which we are seeing them has also increased and at present we have a large and healthy population.

Further up Brackenslack, Trainlands and Holesfoot are reporting a healthy number of reds and this is repeated elsewhere.

Gary has such a large area to cover, but is probably in our parish twice a week at present and I know that he does some '*squirreling*' every day of the week and is dealing with greys in many places, but curiously, it is quiet over at Kirby Stephen at present .

If you do have a grey or see one, ring Gary (07974 788 434) straight away – but could you also drop me an e-mail as well please.

Once you have dispatched a number of greys and are just left with the one remaining or indeed the odd rogue grey, it becomes so much more difficult to trace and dispatch and that can be frustrating, but patience is key.

PHOTO's – I'm getting some lovely ones sent to me and please keep them coming in – they go to Jerry Moss (ranger at Centreparks) who puts them on the P&DRSG Facebook page and I use them in our bi-monthly report as well

REPORT SIGHTINGS – as you know I am now doing our little report bi-monthly and it is only as good as the reports/photo's/sightings that you send me – I'll take them from anywhere in our catchment, but some more from MORLAND, REAGILL, KINGS MEABURN, BOLTON, NEWBY, SLEAGILL would be great.

If you are not on my distribution list ... why? E-mail me at darrog@btinternet.com and I will add you on





Do you have any unused/disused feeders? If so, let me know and I will put it to good use – thanks to John Heath at Kings Meaburn who donated a feeder and which is now in Woodland at the top of Brackenslack Lane.

Photos by: Nick Thomas (top – Brackenslack)

John Gore (above - Morland)

Darren Rogers

LYVENNET COOKBOOK

FLAPJACK

INGREDIENTS

6oz Butter

4oz

1 tbspn Syrup

6oz Porridge Oats

2oz Plain flour

Method

Melt butter, syrup & sugar in a pan, stir in the oats & flour.

Extras can be added at this point, try cup of dried apricots, 3/4 jar of mincemeat, 1/2 jar thick marmalade.

Bake at

180 degrees c

160 degrees fan oven

22 minutes.

Margaret Jarvis, Howebeck. MM

MONKFISH AND THAI GREEN CURRY

Serves 6

Ingredients

2 tbsp, Sunflower oil

2-3 tbsp green curry paste

400ml tin Coconut milk

300 ml water

1 tbsp Nam Pla (Thai fish sauce)

1 tbsp Palm sugar or dark brown sugar

6 kaffir lime leaves

6 small new potatoes

24 raw (shelled) large prawns

700g.Monkfish (skinned) but on the bone) cubed

225gm Bamboo shoots

Salt

Small bunch basil, shredded

1 green chilli, sliced (take care how much chilli you use, depends how hot you like)

Method

1. Heat the oil in a casserole dish. Add the green curry paste and fry, stirring for 5 minutes, until it smells aromatic.
2. Add the coconut milk, water, fish sauce, palm sugar, lime leaves and new potatoes, stirring, bring to the boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes until the potatoes are tender.
3. Add the prawns, monkfish and bamboo shoots. Season to taste with salt .Simmer for 5- 10 minutes until the prawns and monkfish are cooked.
4. Stir in the shredded basil , sprinkle with green chilli and serve.

Sheila Smith, Weir House MM

Kitty's Mushroom & Red Onion Pate

100g Butter

4 large field mushrooms

2 Cloves Garlic crushed

1 small red onion chopped

250g full fat soft cheese

Squeeze lemon juice

Salt & Pepper

Method

Melt the butter, add the garlic & onion & fry until cooked, add the chopped mushroom & continue to fry around 5mins will do.

Allow to cool, add the cream cheese & lemon juice.

Blitz with a blender & season to taste.

Serve with Cumberland sauce & toast.

Best made 2 days before use.

Kitty Smith

Recipe for Savoury Picnic Bread

(makes two loaves in 18cm (7") round tins or similar – shape not critical)

Ingredients

.....for the **Dough**

Easy bake Yeast (or similar)	1.25 level teaspoon
White Flour (preferably Strong)	550 grams
Sugar	2 level teaspoons
Salt	1.5 level teaspoons
Olive Oil (regular is OK)	2 level tablespoons
Water	310 ml

.....**Filling**

Tomato Puree	approx 5 level teaspoons
*Cooking Cheese - grated	150 grams
*Sundried Tomatoes - chopped/shredded	half a jar
*Olives drained and chopped	50 - 100 grams
*Parma Ham torn into strips (optional)	100 grams
*Oregano and/or mixed herbs	1 heaped teaspoon

* Divide these fillings into 2 portions.

Quantities for starting guidance – you can increase or decrease according to taste and experiment with your own favourite fillings.

.....**Topping**

Parmesan (or cooking Cheese) grated	50 grams
Parma Ham torn into strips (optional)	50 grams
Oil from Sundried Tomatoes	enough to drizzle over topping

Instructions

Making the **dough** in a breadmaker is easy and gives ample time to chop the ingredients for the filling and topping. If you prefer you can mix and knead the dough by hand.

Now for the best (messy) part.....

Warm two greased tins in the oven (not too hot)

Place the dough on a lightly floured surface (if the dough is sticky add another light sprinkling of flour to make it “workable”) and roll it out to make a rectangular sheet about 1

cm (1/2 inch) thick measuring approx. 28 cm wide and 36 long (11" x14") - measurements not critical - but it's good to make it rectangular with even sides all the way into nice square corners.

Score a line down the middle of the rectangle with a sharp knife to make two roughly equal strips. Smear tomato puree to roughly cover one strip of dough and scatter one portion of the other filling ingredients on top as evenly as possible.

Roll the dough over the ingredients towards you from the farthest short end like a savoury Swiss Roll. Trim the two ends. With a sharp knife cut the roll in half and then cut each half again to make 4 roughly equal slices. The filling will try to spill out but don't worry. Place each of the four slices into the first warmed greased baking tin, flat side down, in the shape of a four-leafed clover. There will be some small gaps. Use the trimmings from the cut ends of the roll to infill the gaps and use the back of a spoon to press down the surface of the four rolls. The more compressed they are the better the rolls will join together and bond as they rise. As you press, some of the oil from the sundried tomatoes will come to the surface. That's fine, it acts as a glaze.

Repeat this process with the other strip of dough and the second baking tin using the same or different fillings as preferred – see below.

Place both baking tins in a warm place for the dough to prove/rise for half an hour or more until it has more or less doubled in size. Oven at 90 C is OK.

Add the toppings to the surface and drizzle additional olive oil or oil from the sun-dried tomatoes on the surface, if necessary, as a glaze. Add more cheese as needed! Bake in a pre-heated oven at 220 C /gas mark 7 or 200 C for a fan oven for about 20 minutes or until the delicious smell rising from the oven tells you it's ready! Turn off the oven and leave for another 5 -10 minutes before taking them out.

Turn the breads out of the baking tins gently onto a cooling tray – the four coils can separate at this point (which is why it's good to press them down to join as much as possible before proving). Use oven gloves – they'll be hot!

Serve warm as an accompaniment to pasta or tapas dishes or just eat as it is. It keeps well but doesn't tend to last very long ! Always best on day one!

Experiment with different fillings. Pepperoni and sweet peppers on tomato puree; Olive, Feta and pine nuts on green pesto; olives, parmesan and garlic on olive tapenade; the possibilities are endless!

Steve Holroyd, CR

I have been determined to master Sourdough this summer.
India told me about a farmers wife in the Prairies of America who
does a very simple starter
I've adapted the method and recipe by adding a grated apple and
been quite successful

Easy Sourdough Starter

1/4 cup of Plain Flour

1/2 to 3/4 cup of Water, not stone cold.

Consistency about like thick pancake batter.

Stir up in a large jam jar or Kilner Jar

Leave on the side in warm room with the lid ajar till next day.

The mix should have started to bubble slightly. If not leave another
day.

Repeat the process.

The next time tip out half the mix before adding flour and water.

Leave for a few more days till bubbling away nicely and has a
pleasant sour smell

This is now your sourdough starter. It sits on the side and I tip out
and add more flour /water every few days to keep it active. I added
half a grated apple once when it looked a bit sad. That did the trick
and restarted the bubbles!

To make a loaf.

Mix 1/2 cup Starter mix & 1 1/4 cup Water. Add 3 cups Strong Flour &
1 tsp Salt.

Mix and leave 20 minutes. Tip onto floured worktop. Fold
underneath as you turn the dough but don't knead. Fold and turn
into a ball. Leave to rise overnight in a bowl covered with a tea
towel.

Next morning, tip out and repeat folding and turning. Put upside down into a bowl lined with a cloth and some polenta (the creases on the dough should be on the top)

Leave to rise about 1 hour.

Have oven as hot as possible

Heat a 'dutch oven' in the oven. I use a big casserole with a lid.

Turn the risen dough into the hot dutch oven (lined with a piece of baking paper) Make some artistic slashes in the top.

Cook with the lid on for 20 minutes, then another 10 minutes or so with the lid off until crisp and brown.

Good luck

Ruth Tuer, Crake Trees Manor

Steve Holroyd took this and I sent it to my walking group, so cute. Kitty.



A coast to coast? From California to Cumbria!! Part II

And that's how we came to be sitting in the departure lounge of Manchester airport two years later.....

You will recall from last time that we had met with, whilst walking the Coast to Coast, five Californian females & had been formerly introduced at Greenside Farmhouse in Patterdale which is about a third of the way along the route where we had stayed overnight.

Over the next 10 or so days & evenings we spent a fairly large proportion of the time in their company, discussing the best way to get to point B, or where the sandwich shop was (we learned a new word on the way towards Shap:

SOGWICH! - for obvious reasons with all the rain that we were still encountering.

On leaving Patterdale it was our intention to have a gentle sail up the length of Ullswater on the Raven from Glenridding to Pooley Bridge & thence over Helton fell, dropping down to the road towards Shap - a little tedious but we had heard the weather forecast for the coming day. A couple of years earlier when walking the same epic trail we had taken the "proper" route over Kidsty Pike & on to Haweswater & Bampton Grange (not the best way forward when your husband is starting to suffer from the effects of food poisoning), so this time we chose the leisurely approach, staying at low level & enjoying the stunning scenery which was so familiar to us both, albeit through the rain & mist!

The Californians were discussing their route & not relishing the trek; I mentioned the impending rain, the morning's forecast.. & they didn't need much persuading & joined us on the boat! Some hours later when we reached

Shap & our accommodation, we were relieved that we had taken the lower route

as a couple of Canadian females had chosen the High Street & Kidsty Pike level & had to be rescued after torrential rain (unusual for these parts!) thunder & lightning had caused them to turn back. We didn't see our new friends that night, but on arriving at a cattle grid above Orton after a very leisurely leg of the walk, a voice called out to us, "d'ya want some cold pizza?" A very entertaining evening ensued when we discovered that they

were also staying in the village so we met them at the George Hotel after they'd eaten more gargantuan meals! (It was, & has been ever since, worth noting that their appetites are incredible)

After Orton & a late night of chatting & tasting several different beers - we were trying to educate them in the art of real drinks - we lost sight of them until Muker village where we remembered 11th September with them & I think we sang Land of Hope & Glory to them(??)

A couple of days later & on our own, we were sitting outside a very busy pub on the main road out of Richmond, passing the time until we could check into the B & B. It was noisy, bustling with a lot of traffic & it felt quite alien after all the tranquillity we'd experienced since pretty much the start of the walk in St. Bees. Gordon said, "what we need now is for five Americans to come walking round the corner" .& hey presto! right on cue, limping & laughing they duly obliged & sat down next to us like long lost friends we'd known for years! Sanity restored.

By the time we reached Blakey Ridge on the North York Moors we were best buddies & after another late night, sitting around the dining table (we had been joining them at any meal stops where we had shared accommodation & tonight was no different), laughing mostly, aching because of the excessive laughter between us all & generally discussing the Anglo- American relationships. The following morning at breakfast they gave us two cards, the first was a wedding anniversary card followed by a birthday card for Gordon. Then came the most important post card of all, with their email addresses on the reverse & with it a very pressing invitation to visit them on their side of the pond!

Up to this point it had been both our experiences that holiday friendships followed by "we must stay in touch & perhaps you'd like to visit" had always been accepted graciously with a half enthusiastic nod but in reality were never followed up. And so it was at Blakey Ridge that day...well at first.

On reflection, having returned home & waded through all the photographs to then write our first email collectively to them entitled "Letter to America"

(sorry Alistair Cooke - the broadcaster/writer/journalist not the cricketer!) we expected maybe a polite response from one or two, saying how "nice" & how "pleased" to have met us & then not hear from any of them again...Mmmm, I think quietly we both had a sneaky suspicion that after we'd been "cheered" down the hill at Robin Hood's Bay on our lap of honour to dip our boots in the North Sea by those ever so enthusiastic Californians, we just might see them again at some point in the future.

So when email after email started arriving in our in box, all saying pretty much the same thing, "please come over & see us & continue the fun & laughter where we left off" & then the final carrot to be dangled was

Christmas when a calendar arrived, home grown by Bev, full of photographs from the walk - well, how could we refuse? Therefore, two years later we booked two return flights to San Francisco from Manchester via Heathrow & started an adventure which continues to this day.

At SF arrivals hall, just before we walked out to where all the passengers are met (cue the closing scenes of Love Actually in the airport arrivals), we looked at each other & said, "deep breath, here we go!"

This global travel all sounds very casual; it was not I assure you. I had never been further than Europe a handful of times, Gordon having spent 22+ years in the RAF had managed a few extensive tours abroad, but in reality, waiting for the connection at Manchester airport to take us to Heathrow then onto a British Airways Jumbo 747 bound for America, well, we were both at the very least excited but mixed with that excitement was a rather large helping of panic. What are we doing here? How did this happen? Although we were going to visit our walking "buddies" in truth we had only been in their company for a total of less than 24 hours over the 2 weeks of walking so didn't really know them at all..

So out we walked into the arrivals lounge....

Do you want to hear more??

Vicky

In spite of the cost of living, it's still popular.

SUN HOTEL

Following on from John Stubbs article from last month, a few photos of the Tartan Beer memorabilia I have from the Sun Hotel.

I do have more tucked away somewhere, from ashtrays to an advertising ornament, I'm afraid the advertising beer mugs got broken.

Joan Raine





During Lockdown, with more time on our hands I finally got around to reading some books on local history, the following pages are from a book called Tales of a Country Parson, written by his wife (in her 80th year) Mrs A F Webster who refers to her Husband as R W. Mr and Mrs Webster came to Crosby Ravensworth in 1888 following the death of Rev Canon Weston who had been the Vicar here for 40 years. I have included the following pages as a first-hand account of Mrs Webster's impression of Crosby Ravensworth and the Vicarage with its 25 rooms and 70 doors, this of course was before the house was divided into two dwellings now known as Weston House and Glebe House.

The viewing of the vicarage took place on the 19th January 1888 my Maternal Great grandmother, the Mrs Hunter who is mentioned on page 104 and attached to this document, took over the tenancy of the Sun Hotel on 2nd February Candlemas day the same year. I never knew Grandma Hunter but I have been told she moved from Ravenstonedale in thick snow with horse and carriage as a widow with four children, my Grandmother being the youngest "Mary Elizabeth Hunter had just turned eight on the 27th of January. Mr and Mrs Webster may have been her very first guests. After Mary Elizabeth marriage to Thompson Park they also took on the tenancy of the pub, as did my parents James Arthur Metcalfe and Mary Hunter Park. The Sun Hotel was in the family for over 100 years.

More next month from the "Tales of a Country Parson on how important the show was to the community, which was founded by the previous Vicar Cannon Weston.

Joan Raine

CHAPTER XXII

ON January 19th, 1888, we took train to Shap, and stayed the night at the Greyhound Inn and drove over to Crosby next day.

R. W. says in his diary, "The day was beautiful and the scenery splendid. The church is a perfect gem, looking most imposing as we approached the village from Shap; it has been exquisitely restored by the late Vicar, Canon Weston."

This was R. W.'s first impression of the place, and I know he always felt it a great honour to be the Vicar of such a beautiful church.

My feelings about it was that Providence had offered him this beautiful church as a reward or recompense for having had to leave Haile so soon after that church was restored—for in its small way that was a gem too.

That he would accept the living was a foregone conclusion, and I could not oppose it, though I felt uncertain about R.W.'s strength to work such a large parish single handed.

Three good sized villages—Crosby, Meaburn, and Reagill, and a fourth hamlet which

included Shap Wells, and although these latter people generally went to Orton Church, which was nearer them than Crosby, their own Vicar was expected to visit them at intervals.

It was a great undertaking, but the north country air seemed to enter into R. W.'s blood, and he felt bold as a lion.

Specially after an interview with the delightful old Churchwarden, Mr. John Dover, a true specimen of a Westmorland yeoman, who tried his best to persuade us to go.

When I represented to him that the house was large and rambling (as a matter of fact, it had twenty-five rooms, which amongst them possessed seventy doors, for many rooms had two or three entrances) and that we had always had compact modern vicarages, and that we should have to buy miles, so to speak, of new carpet, he waived all my objections aside and pointed out the beauty of the garden with a stream running through it, and the delightful rockeries which he assured me were so easy to keep in order.

As R. W. hated gardening like poison and I knew that part of the Parish work would fall entirely on me, I began to feel a little reconciled.

Though I love gardening, I was not particularly strong at that time, and I quite agreed

Tales of a Country Parson

with the author of *Mary's Meadow*," who says, "To garden, you must have a cast iron back with a hinge in it."

Finally we settled to go, and went back to Millbrook to make preparations to say good-bye to our parishioners.

This was the third living R. W. had had offered within six months, so it seemed as if we were really meant to leave.

For many things we were very sorry; the people had begun to come more regularly to Church and to Holy Communion; the boys seemed to take a real interest in their wood-carving; the mothers loved their meeting, and altogether it was a horrid nuisance having to move again so soon, and we firmly resolved that whatever happened at Crosby Ravensworth, good or bad, we would live and die there.

It is not so much the actual moving, because it is astonishing with what care a firm of removers will come and deftly pack all your things into vans, but it is the settling in again which is so tiresome; the arranging of different rooms; settling how your, perhaps, very inadequate furniture will look best in them.

Making the most of your carpets and finding that threadbare places *will* come right in front of doors, however you try to hide them, etc.

As a matter of fact there were practically

Tales of a Country Parson

two drawing rooms at Crosby Ravensworth, both good sized rooms united by an open archway, so though our then drawing room carpet (a present bought in Paris when we were married) did very well for one end, we had to get a new one for the other.

Also a new felt for the dining room, which was also a large room.

The study too had to be newly carpeted.

Fortunately most of the bedrooms were small, and we did not require to use them all at first, so we managed them fairly easily.

It was rather an unfortunate time of year too, the weather was fairly cold when we left Millbrook, but when we arrived at Shap (the railway station for Crosby Ravensworth) we found deep snow and were told the roads were impassable.

What a beginning! Here we were with all our belongings, our little daughter, aged 9, her little dog (a Yorkshire terrier, which had been left to her as a legacy by her great-aunt, Mrs. Pennington), a large wicker cage containing the two doves, "Kara and Irene," given to her by Mr. Locke, of Southbourne, two huge cats, R. W.'s special property, and last, but not least, Sammy the pony.

Our arrival with the maids, and all these animals, caused quite a sensation at the Inn,

Tales of a Country Parson

but they very kindly made the best of us and our animals, and treated us royally.

We had to remain there till the snow was cleared from the roads, which took about three days.

Long ere this, our furniture had arrived, but that also had to wait, and at long last we got ourselves *and* our furniture over to Crosby.

CHAPTER XXIII

FORTUNATELY there is a very comfortable Inn—The Sun—within a stone's throw of the Vicarage and Mrs. Hunter, the then proprietor, made us most kindly welcome, as we say in the north, and did her utmost for us till we got settled.

Nothing could damp R. W.'s ardour. His diary at this time is full of remarks about the beauty of the scenery, and his enjoyment of the long walks up the hills.

The diary is also full of the beauty of the Church and the wonder of its restoration by his predecessor, the Rev. George Frederick Weston, Hon. Canon of Carlisle.

R. W.'s successor, the Rev. C. J. Gordon, wrote a most interesting account of the Church and its restoration, which was printed in the *Cumberland and Westmorland Archæological Journal*, and he has most kindly allowed me to quote freely from it. He says: Mr. Weston went to Crosby as a young man and conscientiously felt himself called to the work of restoring the once lovely structure to its ancient size and beauty.

The old name of Crosseby Ravensthwaite

Tales of a Country Parson

seems to indicate a Danish or Scandinavian Christian village or town, where one named Raven had fixed his settlement after Britons or Angles had been dispossessed.

The Norman Church was built in the form of a Cross, and consisted of a nave, with north aisle, chancel, and north and south transepts, surmounted by a low tower at the crossing.

The only remains of this Church are the clustered piers of great bulk at the intersection of the nave and transepts, with square projecting capitals, but this noble building appears to have been entirely thrown down.

During the last restoration melted lead was found in the interstices of the stones, some of which were discoloured as if by the action of fire; this pointed to the Church having been burned down.

At this time, 1137, during the civil war in the time of Stephen, it is only likely that such a considerable Church should be attacked, and the old chronicler says that the robbers spared neither the lands of Bishops, Abbots, nor Priests, and it was said openly that Christ and his saints slept.

We have no record, but judging from the style of architecture, we may place the rebuilding of the Church about the middle of the 13th century. The south aisle was then added

Three Months Birding In A Lockdown

Like many birdwatchers, every year I keep a list of all the bird species I've seen in the UK within that specific year. So, on New Year's Day, I normally "tick off" whatever comes to our bird feeders, then maybe plan a visit out-of-county to somewhere like Leighton Moss or Martin Mere for waders, ducks and swans. And then, suddenly, in late March 2020 we were in lockdown when even a health-inducing walk down into Maulds Meaburn incurred keen scrutiny from roving police vehicles which were seen in the area in a great unprecedented "irruption" of fluorescent green. All bird reserves were closed, even if you were prepared to risk a fine by driving to one and pretending it was on the way to a supermarket. I'd just have to spend the next three months building up my year list locally – very locally!

It is often assumed that you will encounter more bird species in the countryside than in an urban area but this isn't necessarily true. You will probably do much better on old flooded mine workings which have been allowed to regenerate than in an artificial conifer forest or huge expanses of rape seed in which all the hedgerows have been uprooted. However, for an inland location the Lyvennet area isn't at all bad, with fells, some mixed woodland, open spaces and rivers. So what have I seen?

First on my Lockdown List was a Sparrowhawk – that's always good to see, unless perhaps you're a young Blue Tit. Then, as March progressed into April, the focus turned to the summer visitors. House Martins and Swallows reappeared in the village during the first week of April, with Sand Martins along the wider river in Maulds Meaburn - these birds tend to nest in holes in the sandy banks, so a dry warm start to spring was ideal for them. The two most common warblers, Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff soon followed – difficult to tell apart when hidden in the leaves during midsummer, but easy to hear when calling for a mate in April and May! The good weather held throughout the month, meaning that solo trips up Slack Randy were a delight, with neither mud nor crowds, and Skylark, Meadow Pipit and

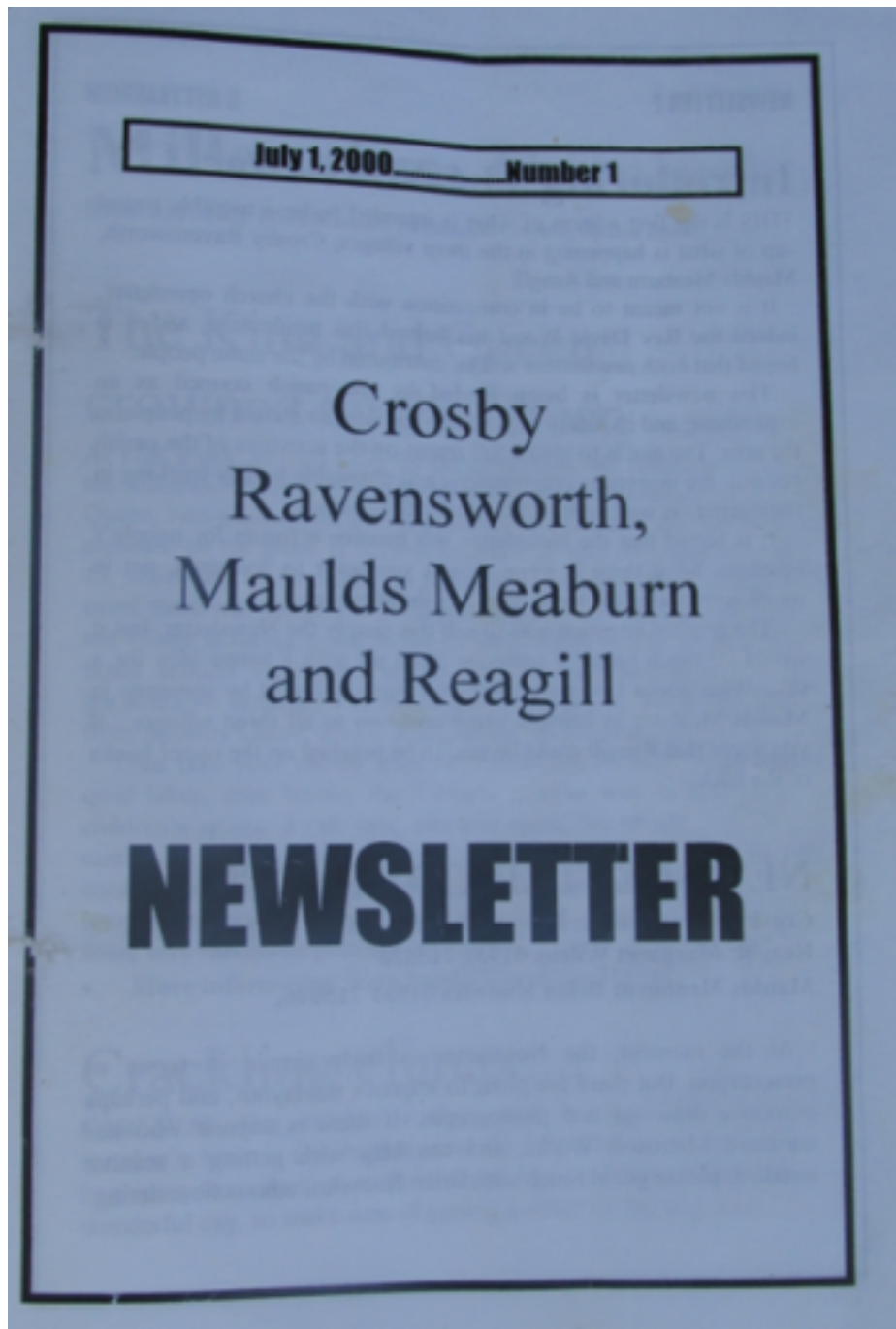
Wheatear were easy to find. But this year I still haven't found the elusive Golden Plover which breed in small numbers on the remoter parts of the fell. However, on the wader front Curlews, Lapwings and Oystercatchers could all be seen around Crosby and Maulds Meaburn.

A trip into Penrith for essential groceries (honest!) yielded a Yellowhammer at Clifton Dykes. Blackcap and Redstart turned up at Brackenslack and finally the much-awaited Swifts arrived at the end of the first week in May, although our two Swift boxes were already taken by nesting House and Tree Sparrows. We took a trip out towards Swindale where Linnets were seen on the bright gorse, and on the concrete road towards Burnbanks I found a female Pied Flycatcher to complete my list of new birds for May. One or two noticeable birds I'd already seen before lockdown, and now saw again, included breeding Treecreeper near Monks Bridge and, a Dipper on Dalebanks Beck. One star bird which has been very common this year and easily seen in the parish is Spotted Flycatcher, which seemed to be perching and making a short sally for insects everywhere there was a wire, a fence, or a gravestone (there's a hint!).

The only new bird I have spotted in June was a Common Sandpiper, one of our very few summer migrant waders, found near Cliburn along with a Kingfisher. Now that the lockdown is finally coming to some kind of conclusion, where do I go now? A trip to a reedbed, or the cliffs at St. Bees seems the obvious choice to find more new birds, but given time and patience, of which there was an abundance with a complete lack of required meetings or social gatherings in spring 2020, local birdwatchers have shown you don't need to visit reserves to see good birds, they are there for the finding within a mile or two of your village doorstep, or even in your garden!

Neil McCall

‘The History of Parish Magazines and that of our own ‘Link’ continued from last month.



The very first edition

The first and most obvious point to make is that our PM is not ‘church’. Whilst it does carry church news (dates of services, etc) it is not an ecclesiastical publication.

This issue was addressed in the very first issue of the magazine

It is not meant to be in competition with the church newsletter, indeed the Rev David Wood has helped this production, and it is hoped that both newsletters will be distributed by the same people.

Therefore, if you have wondered why we get the 'Morland's magazine', we don't, the '**North Westmorland News**' is our church magazine.

In the beginning ... **'The Lyvennet Link'**, which is so often shortened to just 'The Link', went by a different name ... the very first edition being called '*The Newsletter*'.

In 1999/2000, Philippa Dobson the then clerk to the Parish Council chatted with Kitty Smith about starting a Parish Newsletter.

Brian Knowles, the retired Editor of '**The Manchester Evening News**', who lived at Lyvennet House in Maulds Meaburn, became involved and he then produced the first newsletter in July 2000 – and in his introduction he asked for ideas as to what the magazine should be called.

In that first edition a name of '**Lyvennet Life**' was suggested as '*a name common to all three villages*',

which at that time was Crosby Ravensworth, Maulds Meaburn and Reagill (Kings Meaburn not been included at this point) and somewhat amusingly added that: '*If you agree that Reagill could be said to be perched on the upper banks of the beck*'.

However, Kitty Smith's suggestion of '**The Lyvennet Link**' was chosen and Brian asked her if she could help with gathering information for future editions.

Kitty and others came up with a few ideas: there was a kid's corner with a few jokes, a few people provided recipes and there were the usual notices typical in any such PM.

Obviously any events that were happening in the Parish (this would subsequently include Kings Meaburn as it was included in the Community plan) and news from the school were also included.

Brian then developed his contacts/contributors and Judy Richardson (Crosby Ravensworth), Margaret Wilcox (Reagill), Carol Cross (Kings Meaburn) along with Kitty becoming his sources for information/copy.

Sadly Brian lost his battle with cancer and this saw George Robson, (Beech Tree in Maulds Meaburn) take on the role of the editor.

From the very beginning the 'Lyvennet Link's' production values were of a high standard, something that you would expect when the editor came from such an illustrious background – but even in that first edition Brian made clear the technical difficulties that he was encountering, even describing himself as ... '*floundering*.'

At the moment, the Newsletter is fairly simple in terms of presentation. But there are plans to improve the layout, and perhaps introduce drawings and photographs. If there is anyone who has mastered Microsoft Works, and can help with getting a scanner installed, please get in touch with Brian Knowles, who is floundering.

Even the best occasionally need some help!

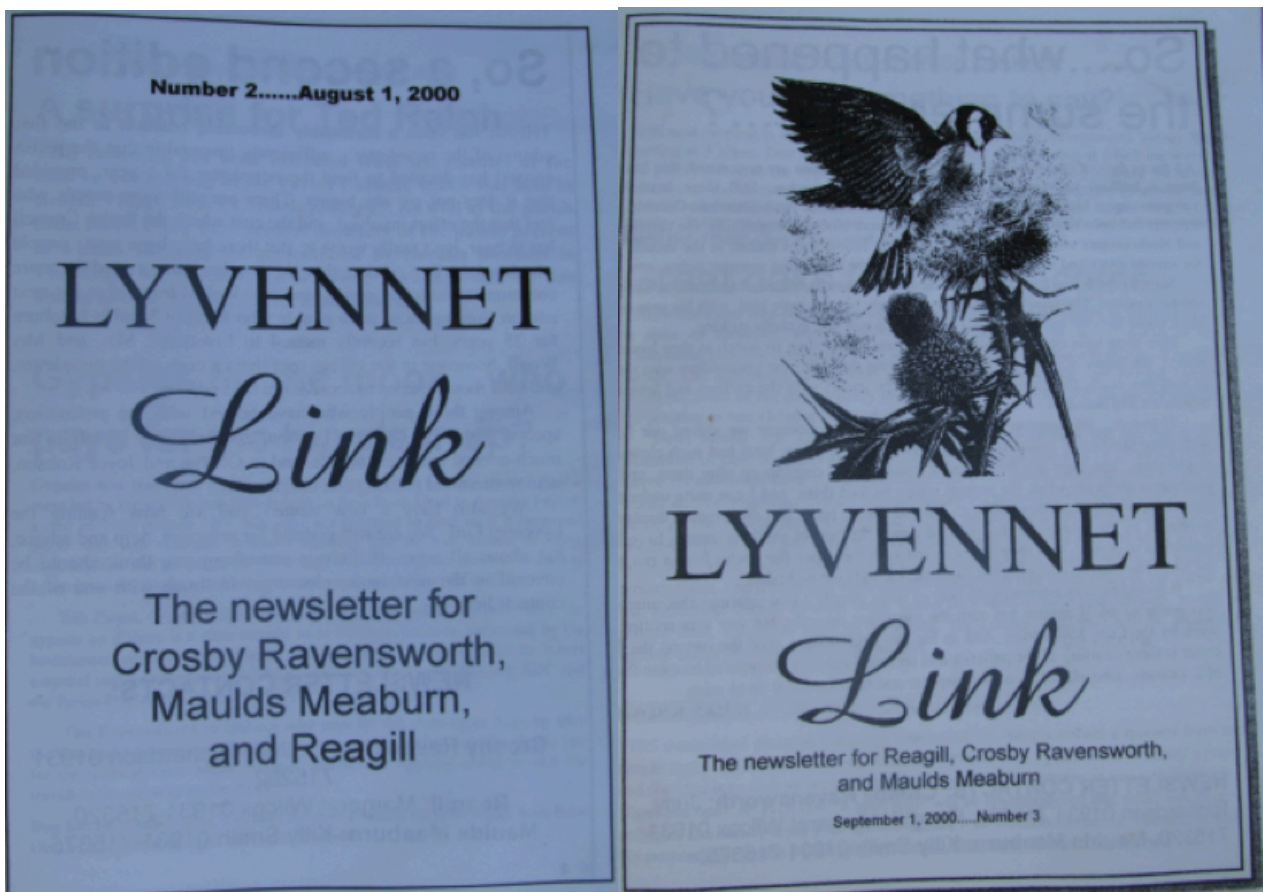
Progress of the front cover

As already mentioned the first edition wasn't called the 'Lyvennet Link', the cover of that first edition is shown above.

The second edition then carried the 'Lyvennet Link' name, but just in type (scroll), but again things quickly progressed and by the third edition the front cover now carried a picture which would then become the common theme.

That 'theme' would be a picture of a bird or animal, which would then later be changed to that of a photograph of a local scene, this still being in use today.

That first edition, whilst containing the articles that you would expect to see, did have two quite striking articles that you would not ordinarily find in any other PM. Undoubtedly this was the work of a newspaper editor, probably his aims and ambitions for the 'Lyvennet Link', but which are probably not in keeping with a 'normal' PM – but nonetheless, interesting.



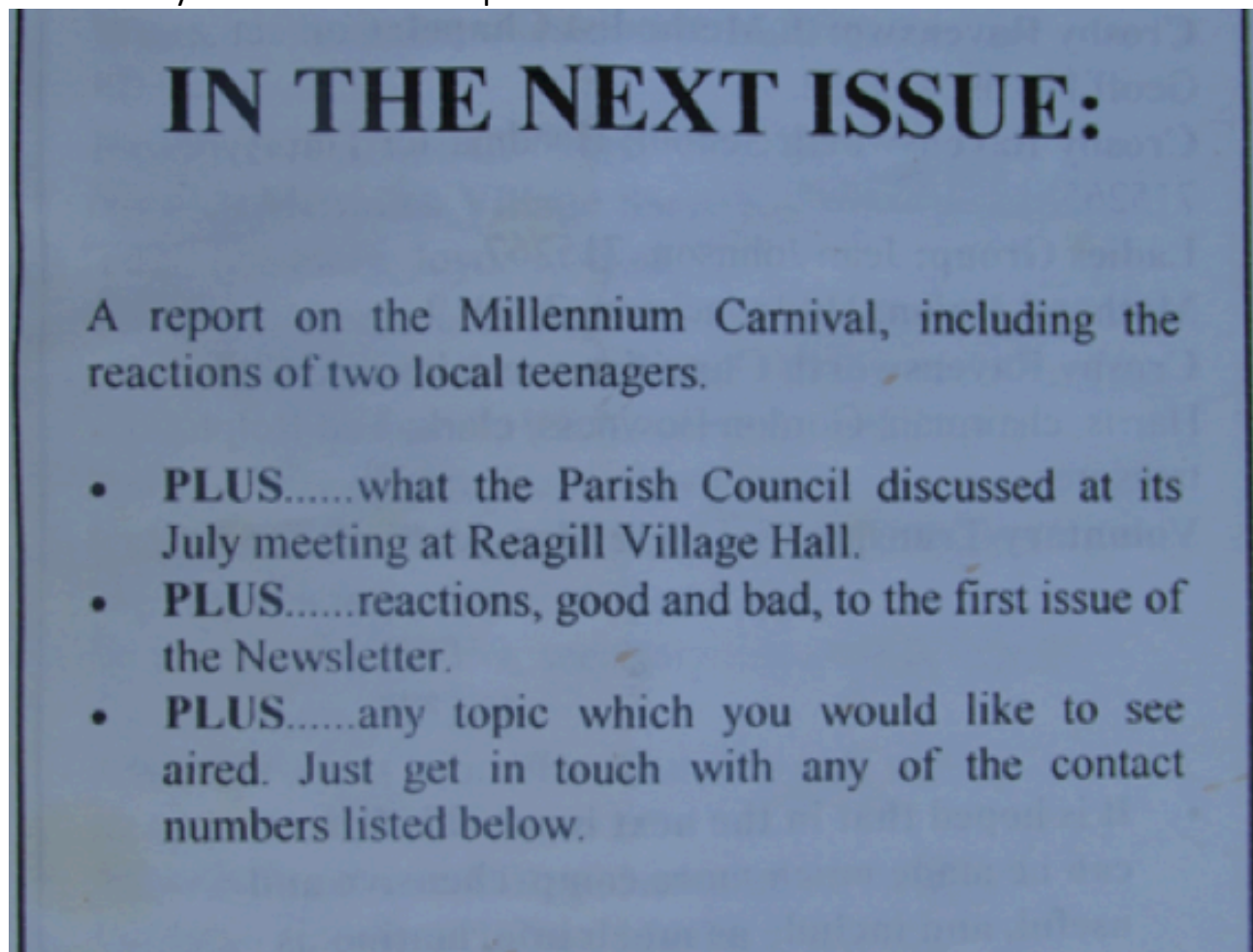
Firstly, Brian's introduction contained the following:

It is hoped that the Newsletter will become a forum for people's opinions. So if there is some subject you want to see aired, get in touch with one of the three contacts listed below.

A '*forum for people's opinions*' was certainly an interesting concept, but as we live in small communities, all know each other, etc, etc, then as social media as now demonstrated, a very local media source is possibly not the best '*forum*' for our opinions.

However, the back cover (usually reserved for 'diary dates' in most PM's) was a touch of genius.

How could you not wait in anticipation for the next issue?



IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

A report on the Millennium Carnival, including the reactions of two local teenagers.

- **PLUS.....**what the Parish Council discussed at its July meeting at Reagill Village Hall.
- **PLUS.....**reactions, good and bad, to the first issue of the Newsletter.
- **PLUS.....**any topic which you would like to see aired. Just get in touch with any of the contact numbers listed below.

The other possible uses of a PM were quickly exploited come edition No.2 as it now carried an advert section:

ADVERTS: For SALE, WANTED, and SERVICES:

FOR SALE: Raleigh Topaz girls bicycle in excellent condition, 25 pounds. Money to go to Maulds Meaburn Village Institute. Robson, 01931 715335.

WANTED: A good home for two small, friendly dogs. One is a miniature Schnauzer, the other a West Highland terrier. Ideally the dogs would like to go together. Contact Rev David Wood. 715226.

BED and BREAKFAST: Sixteenth century farmhouse in picturesque Maulds Meaburn, marvellous walking and riding. Pets, children and horses welcome. Bigit Benz, 01931 715137.

Brian's hopes for a '*forum for opinions*' was possibly met in the second edition, however, he had probably hoped for something slightly different, to that which appears in every PM up and down the land at least once a year ... dog poo!

And talking about dogs....

THERE are other aspects about dogs which causes many people great irritation. The parish council wishes to remind dog owners in the area, of the dog bins, and to once again ask owners to make use of them. It is a common sight these days to see people taking their dogs for a walk carrying a handy plastic bag. Most owners are responsible in these matters....some are not.

The council has received a letter from a Maulds Meaburn resident asking if the council cannot ensure that all dogs are kept on a lead, as he has had trouble with loose dogs worrying his chickens. The council requests that all dog owners keep their dogs under proper control.

And so the 'Lyvennet Link' quickly became a part of village life and by the Christmas edition of 2000 it gave a good demonstration as to how good a historical research source they can be with the following article:

CROSBY RAVENSWORTH POST OFFICE

Thanks for a first-class service

THE villagers of Crosby Ravensworth are still coming to terms with the possible loss of their Post Office following the recent announcement of the retirement of Mrs Anne Robertson who has done the job for 15 years, following on from her mother Mrs Agnes Dawson who was postmistress for 26 years.

Post Office Counters Limited is looking for a new sub-postmaster who would be prepared to take over the office on new premises. A spokesman said, "The office is likely to close at the end of February unless a replacement is found. If the office has to close services will be available at School House, Maulds Meaburn or at Shap." Anyone interested should contact the agency recruitment team on 0845 6016260.

In the meantime, we all wish Anne Robertson a long and happy retirement and say thank you for all those years of first-class service.

Having lived in the parish for 14 years I've never known Crosby Ravensworth with a post office, let alone where it was.

This one simple article provides names, time frames and just a little bit of village history – and now a chance to reminisce

Nick Thomas writes:

George Robson took over editing the Link in March 2001, February being Brian's last issue, though George had been involved from the start. The first issue of the Link I read was in December 2001 when Joyce arrived as we were unpacking and, welcoming me to the village, handed me a copy of the Link. As a newcomer to the Parish the newsletter struck me as an excellent way of letting people know what was going on. All through the period that George edited the Link it included reports of all the local societies. These included History Group, Ladies Group, Book Club, WI, MM Village Society as well as the minutes of the Parish Council. George, being himself a member of the Parish Council, understood that both for the benefit of the PC and the Link they should be clearly separate and therefore made the Link the responsibility of MMVI and subsequently Maulds Meaburn Village Society. Since this disbanded it has been autonomous.

When George began to feel that doing the Link every month was too much for him he advertised for someone to take over. After about 3 months with nobody coming forward I decided I would give it a go. I would not have liked to see the Link come to an end and also felt it was a way of doing something for our community.

It was clear at my 'interview' that George was very reluctant to give the Link up and also that he was quite fussy about who he passed it on to!

He was much appreciated as editor. One notable feature was his editorial at the beginning, a sort of opinion piece. I have plenty of opinions but don't think people would want to read them, so I dropped this.

An email sent in when he passed on the Link expresses this:

I would not want George Robson's pending retirement as editor of Lyvennet Link to go unnoticed.

We spend many weeks of the year in Maulds Meaburn but when we are away, we very much appreciate being kept in touch with local events through The Link by George and his reporters. The subtle humour of his editorials provides a perfect introduction to the magazine. We hope that he will continue to contribute to the life of the community; he has been so generous with his time and energy in his village of adoption, notably with The Link and in connection with the village institute.

We should also mention Joyce's unfailing support, particularly in recent years.

Well done, both of you. You have set a splendid example to those who take over from you

Evelyn Dent

I began in, I think, March 2005 with a trial to see how I managed. An advantage I had was that I was able to receive copy by email. I started with 7 pages and increased over the rest of the year to producing all but the front and back cover. George continued producing these until April 2007. From then on it has been produced entirely on computer. I would guess that the way I do it probably now seems primitive to anyone with proper desktop publishing skills!

Production was a bit like a cottage industry. The Robsons had a small room set aside for a photocopier, which was provided and maintained by the Parish Council. Each page was pasted up and then photocopied. It was then collated by hand before being folded and stapled by hand with 2 long arm staplers attached to a piece of wood. Joyce continued the photocopying and stapling long after George died, along with delivery in Maulds Meaburn and outlying properties. In 2010 when all this finally became too much for her (Annie Kindleysides got wind of this and organised a meeting to sort it out) the school took over the printing and Tracey Howard took over folding and stapling. (When the stapler finally broke we decided that the amount of work in stapling outweighed the benefits!) Joyce also continued proofreading along with Graham Bell until shortly before her own death. The Link receives no direct funding. The Parish council pay for printing which is billed direct by the school. Kings Meaburn has been included in the Link since December 2007. KM's printing costs are billed directly to the Chair of their Parish Meeting.

The Link has taken a rather unexpected turn in the last few months and I have to say I have enjoyed it. An electronic version of the Link has many advantages. I'm not sure it would work as well as a way of publicising events. Printed matter tends to hang around the house. Emails are easily ignored and more easily forgotten. I would be interested to hear people's views although a major factor is how publicity reaches those who don't have access to email. Having said this I only received one request for a printed version of April's otherwise conventional Link and that was from someone worried that they would miss Rev. Stewart Fyfe's preface, which is actually in the North Westmorland News. (I delivered both newsletters).

Parish directory

The parish of Crosby Ravensworth also associated a new publication, the 'Parish Directory' to the 'Lyvennet Link' and this was produced for several years - but which I now believe is no longer so.

Crosby Ravensworth Parish Directory

2010



A Directory For
Reagill, Maulds Meaburn &
Crosby Ravensworth

This contained details and information for local services from doctors to newsagents and was certainly a very useful leaflet.

The front cover was more in keeping with that of the early editions of the 'Lyvennet Link' .

As Kings Meaburn has its own parish council they were not included.

And finally – never forget that in a world of ever increasing price rises and the pound in your pocket seemingly going less far than it used to, in twenty years of the 'Lyvennet Link' you have never seen a rise in its cover price – now that's inflation busting!

Darren Rogers with contributions from **Nick Thomas, Joan Raine, Kitty Smith**

Photographs - David Nattrass





