

The Gill

Welcome to the April 2016 Edition of the
Newsletter along with Annual Report brought to you by
Hethersgill Parish Council

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Yet another year has passed by and it brings me great pleasure to be able to give you a brief summary of the last twelve months in the life of Hethersgill Parish Council.

As you were aware in May 2015, we successfully re-elected seven Councillors which left us with two vacancies. I am pleased to report that both vacancies were filled promptly and our Council is again working at full capacity. All of our Councillors work hard on your behalf and are very happy to listen to any concerns you have. Our contact details are always printed in each edition of The Gill so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you wish to raise anything with us.

We have been doing some tidying up works around the Parish this year. Most of you will hopefully by now have noticed the two new noticeboards at Kirklington and Uppertown. These boards were fully paid for by the Cumbria County Council Community Grants fund and we hope you will agree that they are a welcome addition. The old boards, although sturdy, were subject to all the inclement weathers and more often than not, the notices were blown down causing a litter nuisance, so we hope these new boards will prevent such problems. We have donated the two old boards to local community groups who can put them to better use.

I am also pleased to report that we have spent a bit of time keeping the Sand Hole Common Land in better shape. This small piece of community land has had regular grass cuts to try and

keep the area more visitor friendly.

We were very pleased to see the implementation of the 30mph speed restrictions around the Crossroads. The process leading to this speed reduction was begun by members of our parish raising complaints about the perceived speeds being met in that area, so shows what we can achieve when you alert us to problems you are having.

Many of you have been affected by the numerous road works we have had throughout the Parish. We are aware that our roads are not in the best of states and we continue to report defects when we become aware of them. We would urge you as the public to also report any problems to the Highways Hotline.

As well as reporting Highways defects, we do work closely also with the Footpath and Rights of Way Officer. If you do know of any problems affecting our footpaths we can speak to him and have maintenance works discussed or action taken on blockages on the routes.

In the last Annual Report I mentioned that we were trying to get the volunteer bus service to operate in our Parish. I am pleased to report that the bus service - the Border Rambler - is operating between Carlisle and Brampton very successfully and will be undertaking research soon in Hethersgill to see if the service can be extended here.

I also continue to work on the Life+ Project to restore Bolton Fell to try and ensure that the local community is informed and involved. Many of you did attend the Open Days that the BogLife team held at the Moss. We will try and keep you updated of any relevant future developments with this long term restoration project.

We held some first aid training last year which was well attended. Thankfully our defibrillator has not needed to be used but remains at the Hall for emergencies. We have put up some signs recently to help guide non-locals to its location.

Planning matters have once again been quiet with five applications coming to us this year for our comments. We do discuss all planning

matters at our meetings and have a set of the plans to view so come along if any applications are causing you concern.

Financially I am pleased to report that the Council have not increased their precept this year. This was a difficult decision as one of our main funding streams has been abolished so we have lost a substantial proportion of our income. We are comfortable that with careful budgeting we can continue to provide the same levels of service as before. This year we have been pleased to have supported the Parish Hall again as their ongoing refurbishment continues. We once again also made our regular donations to the Social Committee, the PCC and the Great North Air Ambulance. In addition, we were pleased to also help support the above mentioned bus service and the Blood Bikes charity, who do great work in our area.

One area of concern that we have as a Parish Council is a constant clash of dates with district Council meetings. This has prevented our City and County Councillors being able to attend over the past year. There is some information in the newsletter with the plans we have in place to try and solve this problem. I do offer them thanks though for their continued support via email and telephone!

Looking forward into 2016/17 we continue to make plans as to how we can help you. Broadband, as ever, is a priority and we have a small project budget for additional plans that are still being formulated. If you have any ideas we would be happy to listen to them.

In conclusion, I would like to offer thanks to our Parish Councillors and Clerk for their contributions and hard work.

Harry Kay,
Chairman, Hethersgill Parish Council, April 2016

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday 10th May at 7.30pm in Hethersgill Parish Hall. Please let the Clerk have any items you would like to discuss or simply come along and tell us what concerns you or what you are most pleased about in the Parish. This meeting is your chance to speak freely so do come and join us.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

We have decided to make some changes to the dates in which we hold our Parish Council meetings. Our next meeting will remain on the planned date of 10th May but from July onwards we will move to the third Tuesday of every other month. This is to try and help ensure our City and County Councillor can attend on occasion. The new dates for our Parish Council meetings in 2016 will therefore be:

Tuesday 10 May 2016 Tuesday 19 July 2016

Tuesday 20 September 2016 Tuesday 15 November 2016

We will review the situation at our November meeting and decide whether to continue with the third Tuesday for 2017 or revert back. We will keep you fully informed. Please remember that until the official notice goes on the boards, all dates remain subject to change as situations do sometimes crop up that force us to move.

BORDER RAMBLER BUS SERVICE

The Border Rambler is proposing to commence a Thursday service through the following villages from the beginning of September and needs your help and feedback to assess the service viability. The Service will run through Lanercost, Walton, Hethersgill, Smithfield, Scaleby and Houghton Hall to Carlisle. All eligible passengers will be able to use NoW Card concessionary travel.



Anyone who would like to use the bus service please contact us via email info@borderramblerbus.co.uk or leave a voice message on 07510 643 084. Please leave your contact details and let us know if you would plan to use the bus service occasionally or frequently. We will get back to you to discuss our plans. Border Rambler have been running since September 2015 through the flooding and adverse weather this winter, we have never missed a service day yet and have carried over 1000 passengers.

SHEEP AND DOGS

Our local Police Community Support Officer has reminded us about the problem of dogs running loose and worrying sheep, especially at this time of year. She has asked that people be vigilant both with their own dogs near sheep and to keep an eye out for other people allowing dogs to run with livestock and try to get descriptions, car registration numbers etc. and report the matter to Police.

MEMORIES OF THE MOSSES

Monday 6th June, 2 – 7 pm at Stapleton Village Hall

When you think of Bolton Fell Moss, what do you think of? What memories do they invoke - from recently or long ago? In times of rapid change, recording these memories for the future is important, otherwise they are lost forever. We would love to create a 'Memories of the Mosses' project with you; collecting, sharing & celebrating local people's memories of life and landscape on and around Bolton Fell and Walton Mosses. If you, or someone you know, would like to share your stories, drop-in and join us anytime between **2 – 7pm on the 6th June at Stapleton Village Hall**. If you have old photographs or objects that would help bring the memories alive, please bring them along. Or, get in touch directly using the contact details below. Together we will discuss how best to capture the memories - it may be a booklet of story snippets and photographs, or voice recordings published online. Sarah Thomas, a landscape writer will be joining us to help create a space for your stories to be heard. ! This event is supported by Cumbria BogLIFE, a Natural England project.

BIOLOGICAL RECORDERS 'BIOBLITZ' AT BOLTON FELL MOSS

Sunday 26 June, 10am – 4pm A day in which biological recorders are invited to find and record as many forms of life as they can at Bolton Fell Moss. Delivered in partnership with Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre. Booking is essential - Gary Hedges; 01228 618717; recordingofficer@cbdc.org.uk

IT'S A BOG'S LIFE AT BOLTON FELL MOSS—A GUIDED WALK

Sunday 17 July 1 – 3pm

Join us for a gentle stroll on the moss, to an area of the bog that was never part of the past commercial peat-cutting operations, and get up close to a variety of bog wildlife. On the way we will take a look at an area that has recently been restored by Natural England, to see how this rare habitat is now coming back to life. No booking required. Wellies are essential. All ages welcome. The peat is soft and uneven and unsuitable for those with limited mobility. Meet at the main entrance to the old peat-bagging factory site, located on the northern side of the bog between Boltonfellend and Stapleton. Grid reference NY 486 69. For more information regarding any of the above, contact: Tania Crockett, tania.crockett@naturalengland.org.uk; 07881 255343.

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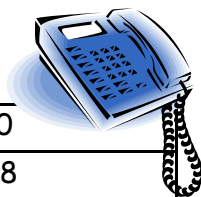
07832127186 Nicola

ACCOUNTS

Please find below a summary of our accounts. Please note these have not yet been audited and as such, are subject to change and amendment. If you have any queries on any aspect of them, or would like any further information, please contact the Clerk who will do her best to explain any queries.

2014/15(£)	<u>Receipts</u>	2015/16(£)
7,000.00	Precept and CTRS Grant	7,000.00
906.00	Grants	2,690.00
0.00	VAT Reclaimed	0
18.75	The Gill Ads	47.50
9,874.75	TOTAL	9,737.50
	<u>Payments</u>	
337.64	Administration	342.89
2,933.10	Clerk's Salary	2,965.32
3,700.00	Parish Hall Projects	1,500.00
500.00	Parish Church Grant	500.00
700.00	Donations (incl. S137)	900.00
379.95	The Gill	584.75
159.00	Insurance	159.00
0	Equipment and Maintenance	1,331.90
20.00	VAT Incurred	225.38
300.00	Website	300.00
9,129.69	TOTAL	8,809.24
Summary		
2,133.99	Brought Forward	2,879.05
12,008.74	Add Income	9,737.50
9,129.69	Less Payments	8,809.24
2,879.05	Balance at Year End	3,807.31
H Kay, Chair		S Kyle, Clerk & RFO

Parish Councillors, your Clerk & Useful Contacts



Chair	Cllr H Kay	675910
Vice Chair	Cllr A Sisson	675378
	Cllr S Barret	675717
	Cllr N Elliott	675336
	Cllr F Heaton	675516
	Cllr G Houston	675212
	Cllr C Williams	675247
	Cllr A Gash	675562
	Cllr A Oswin	675684
Clerk	Sarah Kyle Hill House, Walton, Brampton, CA8 2DY	01228 231124

REALLY USEFUL INFORMATION

Mobile Post Office

The van visits Hethersgill every Wednesday morning between 10.45am and 11.00 am.



Highways Hotline



Report holes in the road, floods, fallen trees, broken signs, faulty street lights etc. to the hotline 0300 303 2992 . You can also report faults using an on-line form at www.cumbria.gov.uk

Recycling

If the bins are full ring 01228 817200.



Comments about the Gill

We welcome comments about the newsletter or any topic - please contact:- Sarah at clerk@hethersgill-pc.org.uk.