

The Gill

Welcome to the February 2017 Edition of the Newsletter brought to you by Hethersgill Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

We invite you to join us for our Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 16th May in the Parish Hall, Hethersgill. We can discuss any items relevant to our Parish so please do come along to this community gathering and let us know your views. We will meet at 7.15pm.

BORDER RAMBLER BUS SERVICE



The voluntary bus service is continuing to run in our Parish every Thursday. We are pleased to confirm the route is currently operating as follows:



If you would like further information on the Border Rambler Bus Service or would like to confirm the times the bus travels through our Parish please visit www.borderramblerbus.co.uk or contact 07510 643 084 (Tuesday and Fridays only). Don't forget you are able to use your NOW card on the service.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The dates for our remaining Parish Council meetings in 2017 are:

Tuesday 21st March

Tuesday 16th May

Tuesday 18th July

Tuesday 19th September

Tuesday 21st November

All of our meetings begin at 7.30pm and you are welcome to come along and raise any issues in our Public Participation session. If you wish for any items to be placed on an agenda for discussion please contact the Clerk on 01228 231124. 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 change our plans.



POOR BROADBAND? GET BETTER CONNECTED

The Government has made a commitment to provide every home and business in the UK with access to a basic broadband service so that browsing the web and keeping in touch with families and

friends is easier.

A subsidised broadband installation is now available if you cannot access an affordable broadband service with a speed of at least 2 Mb per second.

Connect to the page address below and check using their postcode checker.

<http://www.connectingcumbria.org.uk/>

The process is very simple and you do not have to commit to anything to do the checks and see whether you qualify for financial help.



BT TELEPHONE KIOSK

As yet we still have had no notification as to whether we will retain our phone kiosk at the Crossroads. We will update as soon as we know more.

PRECEPT

At our November Parish Council meeting we opted to keep the precept at the same amount as last year. We hope this is welcome news?



PARISH HALL CAR PARK

The Parish Hall Committee continue to progress with improvements to the Hall. At the moment work is ongoing to fundraise to tarmac the remaining area of car park. Funding has been applied to from the Carlisle Parish Councils Association, Cumbria County Council, the CN Group and the Parish Council. Work is hoped to commence in the summer once all funding applications are determined.

Hethersgill Walking Group Programme Spring 2017

Walks may be altered due to weather conditions, so please ring Harry (01228 675910) if you are going to attend a walk to assist communications. Please keep an eye on Facebook and our website for new walking programmes as they are released.

Date	Leader	Meeting place	Time	Proposed walk	Rating	Comments
18/02/17	Harry	Auction Car Park, Rosehill	9.00 a.m.	Loadpot Hill and Heltondale	8m Mod/ strenuous	Easily adapted to suit the conditions
11/03/17	Harry	Memorial Hall, Longtown	8.30 a.m.	Green Lowther and Peden Head from Leadhills	7m Mod/ Strenuous	Climbing to 732 m but starting at c.400m!
25/03/17	Harry	Auction Car Park, Rosehill	9.00 a.m.	Limestone circuit from Orton	9.5m Easy/ Moderate	
08/04/17	Harry	Memorial Hall, Longtown	8.30 a.m.	Durisdeer Circuit	6m Moderate / Strenuous	650 m ascent
22/04/17 to 01/05/17				Haltwhistle Walking Festival See website, or ask Harry for details. Booking Essential		Includes a High Cup Nick walk
06/05/17	Harry	Memorial Hall, Longtown	8.30 a.m.	Philiphough and a different route to the Three Brethren	7.5m Moderate	
20/05/17	Harry	Auction Car Park, Rosehill	9.00 a.m.	Flakebridge Woods and Duf-tonGhyll	9m Easy	For the bluebells
03/06/17	Harry	Auction Car Park, Rosehill	9.00 a.m.	Smardale Fell and Ashfell	8m Easy	

BOLTON FELL MOSS UPDATE

As many of you will know, Westlands have now moved out of the factory site at Bolton Fell Moss, having moved their operation to the Wirral. KPMG have been trying to market the site for some time through GVA (gva.co.uk/Property/9510) and we believe they have had some interest.

Any change of use at the factory site would have to meet planning requirements and would have to be consented by Natural England, as the factory site is designated as part of the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to prevent any operations from damaging the restoration of the rest of Bolton Fell Moss. Under current planning requirements the site must be returned to "agriculture". Natural England are working with Cumbria County Council to find the best solution for the site (as Sinclairs are no longer able to fulfil their commitments) and we hope that some restoration to nature conservation may be the most practical way forward, when funds become available for this.

Natural England continues work to restore the moss itself, having let a number of contracts this year to carry out restoration works in the following areas: Russell's, North, South, West 1&2 and Point of Dog. Work will continue on this restoration throughout the autumn and winter. Next year we aim to let contracts to carry out work on the peripheries of the bog - in the old peat cuttings and on New Mill and Slacks... and will update you on progress with these works.

We are keen to share what we are doing with the local community and others, and have, and will continue to, organise walks and information events. We must stress however, that at the moment the site is unsafe for individuals to enter by themselves for a number of reasons, including the fact that contractors are on site and that the moss itself is dangerous, with deep hidden ditches and very soft wet peat in which people could get stuck. We aim to ensure that safe access is available as soon as is practicable and possible. For further information on the Factory site contact Stephen Lund stephen.lund@naturalengland.org.uk; 07789 032229 For information about the restoration of the moss: Deborah Land. deborah.land@naturalengland.org.uk 07789 94420.

BEWCASTLE SCOUTS GROUP



All our members came back from the Christmas break refreshed and eager to carry on scouting, happy with the presents that Father Christmas had brought them. The leaders held their holiday planning meeting, sadly not in some tropical paradise but in the local pub and produced an interesting programme for the group to get us through this term of winter's end. Planning is always difficult when our weather is so unpredictable. One day bright and freezing and the next dull, warm and muggy. Still, we hope our plans go well although we always try to retain a bit of flexibility in case of a sudden extreme, but we try to teach our scouts to come prepared for anything!

Our plans include night hiking with star-gazing if it's clear - always good to do since we live in a dark sky area with little light pollution. If you want to check, just look at the opening titles to the BBC tv news and see how much light is shown in mid & southern England, north-eastern France and Belgium and the Glasgow to Edinburgh corridor compared to our region. We shall also be swimming, trampolining, learning about community policing, making pancakes, holding an engineering evening and celebrating Robbie Burns and St. Patrick in some ways yet to be announced!

On our first meeting back we were able to award our annual trophies to the members of each section who the leaders think contributed their best (or most) to the life of their section. Beaver George McCluskey won for his enthusiasm at meetings. In Cubs, Briony Cole received the cup for her effort and in Scouts, Anna Taylor was judged to have been a good supportive member.

At the start of the year, we also moved some members up into their new sections in readiness for the annual scout census at the end of January. Three Beavers "swam" up into Cubs which means that now we only have 2 members in our dormant Beaver Colony, which could be reopened if we had another leader, as this section is the life-blood of a group with members moving through the sections during their scouting life. Three Cubs also climbed the gateway into the Scout Troop and so these 2 sections seem to be maintaining their higher numbers even though we have stopped recruiting for the same reasons. Their enthusiasm and exuberance seems to make for a very crowded hall during the indoor meetings. Roll on the lighter nights when we can get outside more! Well done to the Cubs who retained the district bowling completion for a second year in January. Congratulations to our trophy winners for 2016 and as always, good scouting until next the time. Simon Barrett, Group Scout Leader (01228-792723)

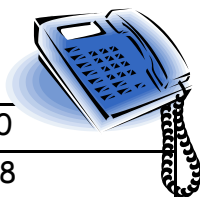
DON'T THROW AWAY - RECYCLE!

Used printer, fax or photocopier cartridges & mobile phones

The Air Ambulance, British Heart Foundation and other charities which collect by asking people to fill their bags with unwanted clothes, also recycle old printer cartridges of all types, laser or inkjet, and unwanted mobile phones, so don't throw anything away, keep them in a bag in the shed and RECYCLE THEM!

In addition, our local schools organise mass collections from time to time so keep a lookout for their announcements and send your cartridges and phones to them, or phone for them to be collected. Contact Bewcastle, Fir Ends or Shankhill Schools.

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.