

Out and About

March 2025
ISSUE 481



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Local Residents Your Village Hall Needs You

The Social Committee is again organising the Thwaites Village Hall annual summer gala. This year it will also celebrate 80 years since VE day.

Last year's gala was limited in its activities due to the lack of volunteers at the event. This year we aim to improve your gala, but we need your help, especially in running stalls and attractions at the event. We would appreciate all help including new members joining the committee, and help to erect and pack away the stalls and tents.

Thanks to all those who helped at previous enjoyable events. Some of our existing volunteers are not as fit as they used to be, thus we need some new blood. If you can help in any way, please contact any member of the committee, which includes:

Terry or Melanie Wright (07792 522517)
Johnathan or Rachel Street
Lin Tyson

In order for this year's gala to continue we need residents to volunteer - preferably immediately or as soon as possible as events and stalls need to be planned and prepared well in advance for this event to be successful.

Thanks in advance.
It's only a few hours a year!

NEWS FROM THWAITES VILLAGE HALL



THWAITES 100+ CLUB WINNERS

February

1st £50 No. 20 Sharon Jones

2nd £25 No. 37 Thwaites School

3rd £15 No. 97 Julia Dixon

The next draw will take place during the first week of March.

Playgroup Bulletin



The playgroup will again be going to St Anne's school, Thwaites, for a session on 10 March from 10-11:30. The children (and their adults) always enjoy a change of toys, activities, and environment. Do join us there or at one of our regular term-time Monday sessions at Thwaites Village Hall from 10:00 to 12:00. You will be made most welcome.

The Great British Spring Clean returns!

This year the 10th Great British Spring Clean will take place from 21 March—6 April. Keep Britain Tidy are asking #LitterHeroes across the country to show they love the place where they live by making a pledge to pick a bag - or more - of litter.

When vegetation has died back at this time of year the blight of litter along roadsides becomes obvious. The Millom Without Environment Group, in conjunction with Sustainable Duddon, are already out and about cleaning up local litter hotspots. Please contact Out and About if you would like to join us or borrow equipment to help with the annual Great British Spring Clean.



For more information visit:
www.Keepbritaintidy.org

TVH Diary Dates March

MONDAYS

PLAYGROUP 10am—12 noon

THWAITES INDOOR BOWLS CLUB

1.30— 3.30pm



Club bowls available
Carpet shoes to be worn; all welcome

WEDNESDAYS

HAPPY FEET 9.30—10.30am

WEDNESDAYS and THURSDAYS

TABLE TENNIS 6—7.30pm



Cost: £2 per person; all welcome

FRIDAYS

FLOW exercise session 9.30—10.30am



BAT & CHAT LADIES TABLE TENNIS 6—7pm

£2 per person; bats and balls provided

SUNDAYS

TABLE TENNIS 6—7pm

FRIDAY 14th

Cumbria Wildlife Trust 7.30pm



Photographing Insects (see P5)



SCHOOL REPORT



Rainbow Shop Re-stock

As you may remember, Thwaites School have developed a Rainbow Shop at their school filled with lots of wonderful toys and stationery that the children can buy using Rainbow notes, earned through displaying the school values. After a year of success, the Rainbow Shop stock was getting low, and so, with money kindly donated by the Village Hall, the school council took a trip to Smyth's Toy Superstore to replenish the goodies, armed with a shopping list compiled by the pupils of the school. They had a wonderful day and are now looking forward to setting up the shop with the new stock. Watch this space.



Re-stocking the Rainbow Shop



Chocolaty treats reward successful reading

Hot Chocolate Friday

The children have been enjoying a new reading initiative at Thwaites School. Children have been tasked with reading independently 10 times over a two-week period. If they succeed then, on a Friday afternoon, they are released from class half an hour early to

enjoy a luxury hot chocolate with delicious cakes and biscuits. The launch was a roaring success, with every child in school managing to achieve 10 independent reads. Keep up the good work everyone!



Making stone age weapons

Use the Force

The wonderful Unit 3 have been into school again. This time they have been deepening the children's knowledge of forces through exciting, hands-on activities that include building rockets, experimenting with magnets and using hair dryers to make balls float.

Stone Age Weapons

Children in Class Three have been learning all about the stone age. As part of their learning the children enjoyed a day outside, searching for natural materials, which they sharpened using stone age techniques and joined to create authentic stone age spears, and bows and arrows and axes.



Governor Vacancy

Do you want to be part of the excitement of Thwaites School? We are currently looking for a co-opted governor to join our friendly governing body. Our governors come from a range of different backgrounds, skills and experience but all share a common interest of wanting the best possible education for the children in our school. Governors are essential for the effectiveness and success of the school and it is an extremely rewarding and fulfilling role.

The governor role is strategic rather than operational. Governors don't get involved with the day to day running of a school, instead supporting and challenging the school's leadership team to drive school improvement. They champion the work the school does.

Being a school governor is a commitment and a responsibility, but offers you the chance to see first-hand the impact you can make in improving education for children in your community.

No special qualifications are needed, and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the governing body's work.

If becoming a school governor is something you might be interested in, please contact the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs S Bawden, on **01229 772554** or email admin@thwaites.cumbria.sch.uk for more information.



PARISH COUNCIL ACTIONS

The Parish Council has embarked on a programme of renewing a number of benches within our community.

The initial phase of three new benches is underway at the following locations: Close to the bridge at The Green; Arnaby Road End heading to Thwaites; Pinnel Hole



In some cases a new base will be required and the new benches will be installed in the next few weeks.

Replacement bench

The next Community Plan under development will explore other opportunities and replacement benches as we continue to invest and renew Parish assets over the next few months. The Parish Council will share progress as we move forward with this programme of work.

Parish Council Tribute to Pauline Murray

The Parish Council wishes to pay its own tribute to the recent passing of Pauline Murray who served for over eight years as a councillor for Millom Without Parish Council.

Pauline was a committed, hard-working councillor who was always there to support and seek to make a difference, whether it was her love for the environment or the people within our community.

Nothing stood in the way of Pauline being ready to assist and this was particularly evident during Covid 19, as she took on the role as a community volunteer. Pauline did not hesitate to support residents who needed extra help during this challenging time.

Being ready to volunteer and serve is a personal choice. Pauline showed the best of what being a Councillor means to a community and the Parish Council valued her commitment and contribution.

Pauline will be sadly missed and we send our deepest condolences to the family.

PHOTOGRAPHING INSECTS

FRIDAY 14 MARCH 7.30PM

THWAITES VILLAGE HALL



Jill Pakenham, Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, will give us hints and tips on capturing images of this fascinating branch of wildlife, with some basic information on moth trapping, which can provide good photo opportunities.

Admission: **£3** suggested donation, including tea/coffee and biscuits

**MEMBERS
AND
NON-MEMBERS
WELCOME**



**Cumbria
Wildlife Trust**

BECOME A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

Why do river forms and functions matter? To wildlife? To water quality?
To people?

Join us on Saturday **29 March** at the Browfoot Room, Ulpha, **09:00—16:00** to learn about ***MoRPh***: the **Modular River Physical** field survey method. This course consists of both a theoretical and a practical element and explains how to conduct a MoRPh survey to give your local rivers and streams a 'physical habitats health check'.

Pre-booking is essential

Book your place on Facebook
sustainableduddon@gmail.com
duddonriverassociation@gmail.com

DUDDON RIVER ASSOCIATION

We invite you to join us for the **Duddon River Association AGM**

4.00pm, Tuesday 11th March
Old King's Head, Broughton in Furness

Please come along to find out more about what we do, including the Duddon Catchment Project, meet our members and discover how you can get involved. Contact duddonriverassociation@gmail.com for more information and to register your attendance.



Photo: Lindsay McCrae

Duddon River Association AGM - all welcome!

If you have ever wondered what the Duddon River Association does, or have considered volunteering for one of our activities, then attending our AGM is a brilliant next step. It's a wonderful opportunity to find out what we have been up to over the past year, share observations about the riverine environment in our catchment (Duddon, Lickle, Kirkby Pool and **Black Beck**) and hear about the exciting plans for the year ahead. It's also a good way of meeting some of our lovely members and the agencies that we work with to improve our local rivers for wildlife and the community.

Our AGM is at **4.00pm, Tuesday 11th March in the Old King's Head** (Broughton in Furness, LA20 6HJ). We will be starting the meeting promptly so please arrive a little earlier if you want to grab a drink before we start. For those who want to stay and have supper afterwards please feel free to join us - it's always a great way to catch up with everyone more informally. Please **RSVP** (email: duddonriverassociation@gmail.com) to let us know if you can make the meeting and if you plan to stay for supper so that we can advise the Old King's Head on numbers. We hope to see many of you there!

NEWS FROM THE HILL



Bob Pritchard and Mike Ames present **AT THE DROP OF A HIPPOPOTAMUS** celebrating the comic genius of **FLANDERS & SWANN**

THE HILL VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 8 MARCH 7 for 7.30PM



Yes, the Hippo will be there, as well as the Gnu, the Spider and the Whale, slow trains, transports of delight, cannibals, songs of protest and ballads of unrequited love

TICKETS ON THE DOOR - £10

Proceeds shared between Kirkgate Arts & Heritage and Bridget's Magical Music Pot, supporting community music making in West Cumbria



An Evening with Tango Calor The Hill Village Hall Saturday 22 March, 7 for 7.30PM

**Journey from the backstreets of Buenos Aires
to the salons of Paris**

Tango Calor was founded by bandoneon player Mirek Salmon (BBC National Orchestra of Wales,

Welsh National Opera, Royal Shakespeare Company). It is a collective of musicians with a shared love of Argentine tango music. He is joined by guitar virtuoso Daryl Kellie described by D'Addario Strings as 'Truly Stunning' and multi instrumentalist Jimi Can on vocals and percussion. Jimi is well known for his many collaborations with Latin and African musicians. Tango Calor have played all over the UK and Europe for tango dances and festivals like WOMAD, La Linea and Glastonbury and are often called on to accompany visiting Argentine artists. Expect a mix of classic tango music and a few surprises on the way! Tickets: **£12** on the door or from <https://thekirkgate.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873667991>

THE HILL OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday
1 March
5.30 - 7.30pm**

*Come and meet
your neighbours
at The Hill
village hall*

*Bring your own
drinks*

*Nibbles
provided*

Drawings of Industrial Millom and Surroundings

by David Bates ARCA



David Bates (1929-2024) lived in Millom for a year during 1949-50, whilst between art school studies. During that time he produced a body of drawings and paintings of Millom and its industry, including the Hodbarrow ironworks and mines.

His family are delighted to be able to host a free exhibition of some of these works at **The Hill Village Hall** for three days, from 11am to 6pm on 5th to 7th April 2025.

This exhibition represents not only a body of fine art works but also a record of Millom at the height of its industrial period. It will also include works by other artists; David's wife, June Moss and one of David's pupils at Preston Art School, Jim Billsborough, who was a resident of Millom for many years.

This exhibition is timed to coincide with the April Open House evening at The Hill Village Hall, from 5.30pm on Saturday 6th April 2025

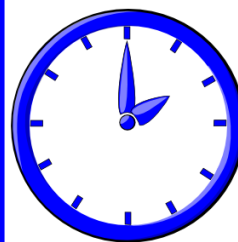
All welcome!

BROUGHTON INFORMATION CENTRE

Staffed entirely by volunteers, but more required to keep this fast-disappearing service going. Expert knowledge not necessary - just a friendly face for a couple of hours whenever you're free.

OPEN Thursday-Saturday 10am-12 and 12-2pm.
If you feel able to offer any time, please contact:
Elaine Knowles, broughtontic@btconnect.com or phone
01229 716115.

CLOCKS CHANGE



British Summer Time (BST) begins at the end of this month. Remember to put your clocks forward at **1am** on Sunday **30 March**.

MILLOM LEISURE CENTRE GETS GO-AHEAD

Millom's new leisure centre has taken a significant step forward after securing planning permission and approval to award a construction contract to Thomas Armstrong Ltd to build the facility.

Cumberland Council's Executive approved the contract award on 18 February and the council's Planning Committee approved the planning application on 19 February.

The new activity and leisure facility also known as Activating Community Health is one of four projects that make up the Millom Town Deal which secured £20.6m from the UK Government's Town's Fund alongside match funding.

The Copeland Community Fund has provided £1 million towards the project and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has provided a £3.1 million grant, as part of its investment in supporting permanent and sustainable change in Millom and all its site communities. Funding has also been provided by South Copeland GDF Community Partnership, CGP, Millom School and Millom Town Council.

David Savage, the Chair of the Millom Town Deal Board, expressed his delight: "We have now secured the approvals so that the construction of the long-awaited Leisure Complex can begin. This means plans can be turned into reality, and this new facility will complement the work we have already started with the refurbishment of the 3G Pitch. This is another significant step forward for the Millom Town Deal projects and means we are starting to observe real progress."

The project will offer a swimming pool, sports hall and fitness studios within the setting of a community and leisure hub.

It aims to improve levels of community health and wellbeing by providing residents with a modern, multi-purpose and fully inclusive facility.



In addition, it would attract visitors to the town which will also support the long-term financial sustainability of this new leisure facility alongside increased footfall and a boost to overall levels of spending within local businesses.

Leader of Cumberland Council, Cllr Mark Fryer added:

"The new centre will include a swimming pool, gym, sports halls, and fitness studios, offering a good mix of physical activities for all ages. It will also provide dedicated space for health services and to support residents access essential wellness support locally, fostering a healthier and more connected community. Designed with accessibility in mind, it will be a truly inclusive space."

Work continues on other parts of the Town Deal projects and momentum continues to build across this transformational programme.

There will be further updates and information on other town deal schemes in due course.

The Millom Town Deal FAQs have been updated and are available at <https://millomtowndeal.org.uk/faqs/>