

Out and About

December 2025—January 2026
ISSUE 489



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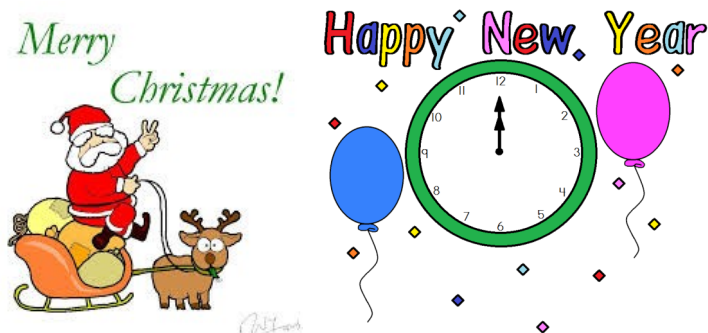
BONFIRE NIGHT SUCCESS



The annual 5th November bonfire with fireworks was a well-attended and successful evening; we even had a gap in otherwise inclement weather. Income from the gate, glow sticks and food sales covered the cost of the fireworks plus other expenditure and related donations.

Without the dedicated work of Thwaites Village Hall social committee, and other friends of Thwaites Village Hall volunteering by preparing for and working on the evening, this popular and long-established event could not take place. Thank you to all who helped!

Season's greetings from Out and About





NEWS FROM THWAITES VILLAGE HALL

Playgroup Bulletin



Get set for the Playgroup Christmas party! We are planning this event for Monday 15 December from 10am—12 noon in Thwaites Village Hall, as per our standard session.

This will be the last playgroup of the year. We will resume playgroup on Monday 12 January.



Community Coffee Morning

Thwaites Village Hall
Friday 12 December
10.30-11.15am
(after FLOW)



Come and join us for coffee/tea/
mince pies

All welcome

THWAITES 100+ CLUB WINNERS

November

1st £50 No. 74 Lesley Mallard
2nd £25 No. 47 Jean Jones
3rd £15 No. 60 Elaine Essery

TVH Diary Dates December and January

MONDAYS (term-time)

PLAYGROUP 10am—12 noon

INDOOR BOWLS

1st, 8th and 15th Dec. and from 5th Jan.

1.30—3.30pm Cost: £3 per session

Club bowls available

Carpet shoes to be worn

WEDNESDAYS and THURSDAYS

TABLE TENNIS 6—7.30pm

except 10th, 24th, 25th & 31st Dec. and 1st Jan.

Cost: £2 per person; all welcome

FRIDAYS

FLOW 9.30—10.30am

5th, 12th, 19th Dec. and from 9th Jan.

MEN'S 50 FITNESS FORMULA 11.30am 5th Dec.

BAT & CHAT LADIES TABLE TENNIS 6—7pm

5th, 19th Dec. and 16th, 23rd, 30th Jan.

£2 per person; bats and balls provided

SUNDAYS

TABLE TENNIS 6—7pm

7th, 14th, 21st Dec. and 11th, 18th, 25th Jan.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST

7.30pm



Cumbria
Wildlife Trust

FRIDAY 12th DECEMBER

Atlantic Islands Wildlife

FRIDAY 9th JANUARY

*Restoration of Cumbria's
Temperate Rainforest*



TUESDAY 20th JANUARY

7.30pm

Wellbeing with Bella Howse



SCHOOL REPORT



Pizza Time

Thwaites School children attending cookery club had a lovely time creating the pizzas they designed themselves. Children cooked their bases and then topped their pizzas with all sorts of delicious treats before tucking in to try them. As you can see, most of the children decided on a sweet pizza with chocolate spread and sweets galore. Mr. Redhead would like to say a big thank you to Lin Tyson, one of the school governors, for lending a helping hand.



Pizzas to be proud of!

Rock Park Reopening



Touring the improved rock park

On the 18th November, Year 5 and Year 6 were invited by Holcim, the operators of the quarry, to the Millom Rock Park Relaunch Event to celebrate the completion of the Rock Park improvements. The children joined the Procter family to tour the Rock Park and officially cut the ribbon. Children then enjoyed cake and colouring at the Village Hall. Thwaites School would like to say a big thank you to Holcim for the invitation, to the Procter family and to Sylvia Woodhead and David Savage.



Tree decorations made by the children

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

It's that time of year again and the children at Thwaites School have been busy making wonderful little decorations for the Christmas tree festival at St. James Church in Millom. The children in nursery, reception and year 2 made some beautiful rainbow stars all decorated in glitter and Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 made sparkly bows with rainbow beads. The theme this year is 'Christmas Colours' and I'm sure you'll agree, their decorations certainly fit the bill.



NEWS FROM THE HILL

The Royal Holborn Hill Brass Band

Saturday 20 December
6.30pm for 7 pm

Come and enjoy
Christmas music and
carols

£5 on the door

THE HILL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday 6 December, 3 January
5.30 - 7.30pm

Come and meet your neighbours at
The Hill village hall

November draw winners

1st prize £50 no 21 Kevin Nugent

2nd prize £20 no 41 James Hall

3rd prize £20 no 37 Harry Gumz

4th prize £20 no 22 Ian Hornsby

5th prize £10 no 18 Helen Chew

6th prize £10 no 4 Irene Atkinson

7th prize £10 no 2 Yvonne Ashburner

Save the Date

The ever popular combination of our local USA Ukele Band and the Pie and Peas Supper will be on 27 February. Details to follow.

The Hill Village Hall has now introduced a WhatsApp Announcement service, which we use to send out details of forthcoming events at our hall. If you would like to be included, simply text your name to **07786 510746**. Or have a word next time you're at the hall.

The Two Villages Film Festival

The Two Villages Film Festival will take place in Kirksanton and The Hill Village Halls in January and February 2026. Our two villages halls are working together to deliver, over a month, one film each per week. We can now announce the films we will be showing.



Fridays, 19:00 for 19:30 screening
9th January Viceroy's House
16th January Swallows and Amazons
23rd January Untouchable (French)
30th January Belfast
6th February Under Milk Wood



Sundays Doors open at 4pm

11th January East is East

18th January Peter Rabbit

25th January My Favourite Cake (Iranian)

Saturday 31st January Doors 6.30pm

The Commitments

8th February Mr Burton

To help us get this off the ground, the CGP Trust fund has provided a generous subsidy, so we are able to offer a Film Festival Pass with access to all films for £30, that's just £3 per film. The number of these will be restricted to 30, sold on a first come first served basis. If you would prefer to buy films a la carte, these will cost £5 plus booking fee or £6 on the door.

Further Information

For further information, a Film Festival Programme is available providing details of each film and how to obtain a Film Pass and book tickets. For more information contact John on **01229 778887** or Helen on **01229 777989**.

- To book individual films at Kirksanton go to www.kirksantonvillagehall.co.uk or phone **Helen**. For The Hill phone **John**.
- You will be able to buy tickets on the door unless we're full.
- To buy a Film Pass, please email Helen or Liz at kirksantonvh@gmail.com or John at jrsutty48@gmail.com

EVENTS



Joe Nicholson's Festive Walk Around the Block Wednesday 17 December, 11am from Millom Market Square, beneath the clock

This is a short walk of less than 1km around Millom on level pavements in association with Wellbeing Walks, Active Cumbria, The Norman Nicholson Society and the Wardens of St George's Church, Millom.

Joseph Nicholson (1880 – 1957) lived above his gentleman's outfitters shop at 14 St George's Terrace. Each afternoon, he would take a break and walk around the block along Lapstone Road to the school and back along St George's Road. People were said to set their clocks by him. His son, Norman Nicholson the poet, spent almost all of his life living in that building and he gives accounts of Joe and his life in Millom in his poetry and autobiography *Wednesday Early Closing*.



14 St George's Terrace

There are few opportunities to sit down on the walk. We will have a short discussion first outside the shop and at locations mentioned in Nicholson's work and then afterwards in the Market Square where there is seating.

The Nicholsons worshiped in St George's Church Millom, just up from the Market Square. On the walk day, the Church will be open and hosting the traditional Christmas Tree Festival. As a local "Warm Hub" on Wednesdays, hot refreshments will be served. We may have a reading of one of Norman Nicholson's Christmas poems.

Join us for this stroll with the Nicholsons at our seasonal best.

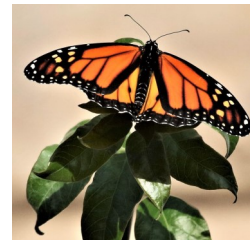
Illustrated talks

Thwaites
Village Hall
7.30pm



Cumbria
Wildlife Trust

ATLANTIC ISLANDS WILDLIFE Friday 12 December



Doug Radford, retired RSPB warden, will show us some of the wildlife - from butterflies to whales, and birds of course - that he encountered on a cruise to the Canary Islands, Madeira and the Azores.

RESTORATION OF CUMBRIA'S TEMPERATE RAINFOREST Friday 9 January



Find out from Cumbria Woodlands Associate, Angus Walsh, what temperate rainforests are, why they are important, where they are found, what the main threats to their survival are and how they can be restored.

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

MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS WELCOME

Rock Park Relaunch

On 18 November the Millom Rock Park improvements were officially opened by a group of 40+ including quarry employees, geoconservationists, Millom Without Parish Councillors, children from Thwaites School and family of Jack Proctor. Many will recall that the late Jack Proctor was instrumental in the development of the Rock Park project as well as other community projects.



During the opening the weather stayed fine so those attending could take advantage of the quarry viewpoint. The new information boards provide an excellent overview of local geology and an outdoor educational opportunity. The children at the opening all indicated they wanted to go back to the rock park for another visit: if you haven't been recently find a gap in the clouds and go.

LITTER PICKING

You may have noticed that local residents were out litter picking towards the end of November. They cleared 18 bags of litter from the verges of the main road at Buckman Brow, between the Broadgate bridge and St Anne's Church at Hallthwaites, and along the A5093 at The Green and The Hill. An array of cans, crisp packets, takeaway meal tubs, sandwich packaging, plastic and glass bottles, cardboard, bags, sweet wrappers, and more, were collected. They also joined members of the Sustainable Duddon group who worked to clear the stretch between Duddon Bridge and the High Cross and further up the Duddon Valley, where vehicle tyres, wheel trims and even an abandoned fishing trolley were part of the haul!



Bags of litter are assembled at convenient points where they can easily be collected, and photos taken. The relevant contact at Cumberland Council (in our area) is then informed and sent photos to help identify the locations. The Council usually collect the bags promptly and are grateful for the efforts of the general public.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who attended my 50th birthday Halloween celebrations at Thwaites Village Hall on 25th October. The night raised £310 for Parkinson's UK. Further funds and donations, which I am extremely grateful for, have boosted the amount to £500 in total. All monies have been sent to Parkinson's UK to fund further research.

Melanie Wright



Barrow to Esk Active Travel Project (BEAT Route)

The Barrow to Esk Active travel project (BEAT Route) is working with Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (formerly Sustrans) to progress applications for funding of feasibility assessments for sections of the route outwards from Millom, initially. Our vision is for safe high-quality routes that are accessible for all and that enable people to get where they want and need to go without a car. Funding would allow for route optioneering, landowner engagement, outline costing and, importantly, would de-risk gaining funding for route development.

Support from individuals, organisations, or businesses is invaluable in gaining funding. Support us or contact us for more information at beatroute2@gail.com or via the website at beatroute.org.uk



MILLOM TOWN DEAL UPDATE

The Old Bank

Progress continues at The Old Bank! Since our last update, there's been a real buzz of activity on site.



The stairwell and lift shaft ceiling have now been insulated and boarded, and more Velux windows have been added to bring in extra natural light. The block and beam floor on the ground level is nearly complete, and the contractors are making the most of what's already there - refurbishing where possible. Decorative cast iron parts of the guttering have been sanded, primed, and painted, ready to be reinstalled. New window sills and a brand-new staircase are now in place, roof ridges have been fitted, and the walls are starting to be skimmed.

Looking ahead, there are plans to render the external walls (weather permitting), continue skimming, install new landings, and begin repointing.

A brand-new staircase is in place

