

Out and About

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IN THIS ISSUE

Parish Council Actions

New Bench at The Knott

Thwaites Gala, Litter Picking
Allotment Available

News From Thwaites Village Hall

Volunteer Recruitment Event
Diary Dates; Playgroup Bulletin
Numbers Club Winners

News From The Hill

Concert; Easter Egg Hunt (**30 March**)
Open House; Numbers Club Winners

School Report

Brass Workshop; River Visit
Science Week; Curriculum Afternoon

Events

Introduction to Arts Out West - a rural
events backer
Local History Talk

Environmental Matters

Eradicating Himalayan Balsam

HAVE YOUR SAY ON HOW OUR PARISH DEVELOPS

The Millom Without community plan engagement evening will be held on [Monday 15th April](#) from 7pm in [Thwaites Village Hall](#). The current community plan, which ran from 2019, ends this year and so the Parish Council is seeking to discuss with and consult the community on ideas for the next community plan.

The community plan directs priorities for the Parish Council and is important in securing funding from outside bodies for parish projects. These have included creation of a children's play area, provision of defibrillators, solar lighting, installation of speed monitoring devices, the new Rising Hill path, cycle events, community litter picking actions, - and many more. The new plan will form the focus of the Parish Council's activities from 2025 so please do come along to let us have your views on how you want your community to develop. Refreshments will be provided.



PARISH COUNCIL ACTIONS



New Bench for The Knott

The Parish Council has recently installed a new seat at The Knott. Responsible for a number of public benches around Millom Without, the Parish Council routinely monitors their condition and has a rolling programme to renew them as required. When taking the opportunity to replace a bench, we now ensure they are made from recycled plastics: this is environmentally friendly and ensures a long-lasting bench with low maintenance costs.



As you can see from the picture, the new bench at the top of The Knott sits in a beautiful setting with incredible views of the surrounding mountains and estuary. Do take a walk there to rediscover this location, take time to soak it all in and enjoy the new bench.

Allotment available



Want to grow vegetables but don't have the space? Use of an allotment (approx 50 ft x 15ft, worked for many years) and a shared polytunnel is available at Cragg Hall, Thwaites, in exchange for help with practical DIY and garden maintenance tasks. Details to be worked out with successful applicant. Most simple essential tools on site. Please contact Ellis – ellis1950@btinternet.com; T: 07817440946

Thwaites Gala



The annual Thwaites gala will be held on Saturday 8th June so save the date in your calendar for this popular community event. June is fast approaching and the organising committee are requesting donations of bottles for the bottle stall. Also, crockery is needed for the smash plates stall. Please take these items to Strands House in advance of the gala or contact Out and About.

As always, volunteers to help on the stalls are needed and set up marquees the week before the gala.

Litter Picking

Unfortunately plans to join in last month's Great Cumbrian Litter Pick were foiled by the severe weather at the time. However, members of the environment group have seized opportunities to clear litter from stretches along the A5495 and A5093 between Buckman Brow and The Hill. You might have seen bags gathered at points by the roadside before being collected by special arrangement with Cumberland Council.

There is much more to be removed so if you want to help make an impact please email oandacontact@gmail.com and we will let you know where and when we will be collecting. We can provide everything you need.

We know many residents regularly clear litter while out walking. Please let us know what you find and/or highlight any areas in our parish that you think need to be tackled by a larger group.

Take note: a prize will be awarded for the most unusual item of litter collected! Please submit a description of the item and where it was found to the Out and About team.

NEWS FROM THWAITES VILLAGE HALL



Volunteer and Trustee Recruitment Event Thursday 25 April, 2—5pm

Cumbria CVS is holding an event to introduce potential volunteers and local community groups to each other. If you are looking to do voluntary work or maybe offer your service as a trustee, come along and find out what opportunities are available. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be offered.

If you represent a group looking for volunteers and/or trustees to help you deliver the service you provide to your community, book your place for a free stand now. Please contact Beresford Moyle Rosser – Development Officer, South Copeland Cumbria CVS

E: Beresford.moylerosser@cumbriacvs.org.uk

Mob: 07826284929



Playgroup Bulletin

Thank you Thwaites School for hosting another fun and well-attended session for us on 4 March.

Playgroup will have a two-week Easter break during the school holiday. The first session in the summer term will be 15 April.

Thwaites Village Hall 100 + Club

March Prize Winners

1st No 139 Tracy Gibbison £30

2nd No 88 Carol Walker £15

3rd No 106 Valerie Selby £10

4th No 49 Ian Hudson £10

TVH Diary Dates



MONDAYS 15th, 22nd, 29th

TODDLERS GROUP 10am—12 noon

NOTE: NO MORE BOWLING UNTIL SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAYS and THURSDAYS

TABLE TENNIS 6—7.30pm

Cost: £2 per person; all welcome

FRIDAYS 12th and 26th

FLOW exercise session 9.30—10.30 am

Gentler FLOW session 10.45—11.45am

NOTE: No classes on 5th or 19th

FRIDAYS

BAT & CHAT 6.30—7.30pm

Table Tennis for Girls and Women

SUNDAYS

TABLE TENNIS

Family session 5pm followed by
'back to table tennis' 6—7.30pm



TUESDAY 16th

WI MEETING

7.30pm

WEDNESDAY 24th

COMMUNITY LUNCH

12—1.30pm



THURSDAY 25th

**VOLUNTEER AND TRUSTEE
RECRUITMENT FAIR**

2—5pm

NEWS FROM THE HILL



The Hill Village Hall
Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday **30 March**
at 1.30pm
Millom Woods Car Park
£2 per child. All welcome

Text 07743513471 or
07494933025

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday 6 April
5.30 - 7.30pm

Come and meet your
neighbours at The Hill
village hall

Bring your own drinks
Nibbles provided

March 100 Club Draw Prize Winners

1st £50 No 51 Sid Brighton
2nd £20 No 23 Graeme Nicholas
3rd £20 No 34 Marianna Benn
4th £20 No 19 Sandra Beare
5th £10 No 71 Gloria Parsons
6th £10 No 8 Maxi Roberts
7th £10 No 116 Daisy Parsons

MUSIC AT THE HILL VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY 12 APRIL
7 FOR 7.30PM

Loshn

Soulful Jewish folkmusic
from three of the UK's leading Klezmer musicians



John Macnaughton
(Oysland)

Matt Bacon
(She Koyokh)

Susi Evans
(London Klezmer Quartet)

From Balkan folk to New York jazz, Loshn take their audiences on a journey from the origins of the music in Eastern Europe through to America in the 50s and beyond.

"A hot trio indeed ..." – Max Reinhardt

Tickets £12, £6 (u18) and £25 (family)

To avoid disappointment book on line

<https://thekirkgate.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/event-categories/126497632>

Or on the door (Tel: 01229 772515)

CABARET SEATING—BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS



SCHOOL REPORT



Brass Workshop with the Royal Northern College of Music

The Year Three and Four children enjoyed a morning of music at a special event hosted by Haverigg School. Students from the Royal Northern College of Music delivered an assembly to the children to introduce them to each of the instruments that they played and treat them to a wonderful live performance that included music from Indiana Jones, Star Wars and Mario. The children then enjoyed a brass workshop where they learnt how to play a few notes and took part in a 'call and response' activity. They all had a great morning and impressed the students with how quickly they were able to pick it up.



River Visit

As part of our fantastic curriculum, the children in Year Three and Four enjoyed a water workshop delivered by Kath Smith of South Cumbria Rivers Trust. They learnt about the importance of rivers through fascinating presentations and wonderful 'hands-on' activities. Kath was a fantastic ambassador for the Rivers Trust and the children delighted in her knowledge and experience. The children then put their newly learned skills to the test, enjoying an afternoon studying a local river.



more school news overleaf

British Science Week



Flying foil cases with a Van De Graaff generator

To celebrate British Science Week, the wonderful Unit 3 set up a whole host of fantastic scientific equipment in the Thwaites School hall. Children from Nursery to Year Six spent a day of fun and wonder learning together and were given the opportunity to create GIANT bubbles, make gooey coloured slime, fire rockets across the room, light a bulb using pedal power, make balloon hovercraft and study fossils using powerful electronic microscopes. Unit 3 then returned for a second day to deliver a robotics workshop to Year Five and Six who programmed robots using coding to travel around a course set up in the school hall.



Pedal-powered lightbulb moment

Curriculum Afternoon



On Thursday 21st March, Thwaites School hosted a Curriculum Afternoon to showcase the new curriculum introduced in September. Parents, governors, members of the community and the mayor enjoyed a walk through a gallery of wonderful work, produced by the children from Nursery to Year Six, and photos of pupils enjoying the fantastic learning opportunities on offer at Thwaites. The headteacher, members of staff and pupils were on hand to discuss the curriculum and answer any questions whilst guests enjoyed a hot cup of tea and a biscuit.

Guests were impressed with the quality of work on display and gave high-praise to the school for the wonderful job they are doing. Thwaites School would like to extend a very warm thank you to all who attended for their time and kind words. The Curriculum Afternoon will become an annual feature of the school calendar to continually celebrate the amazing curriculum on offer at Thwaites School.

Guests were impressed with the quality of pupils' work

A BIG NIGHT OUT IN A SMALL PLACE

Here, we are lucky, as you know. To find some culture or to go to a show in Manchester or London means hassle, expense, travel, parking and all the rest. Here, small local venues make for easy and great nights out.

Here, if you pay attention there is plenty going on. Last month I enjoyed a concert in Ulverston with the internationally acclaimed pianist Anthony Hewitt and the leader of the London Symphony Orchestra. We had the best seats, better than the best in London and for a fraction of the price. That is not unusual.

But in our village halls, is there the quality and variety? That is where our Rural Touring Schemes come in. The Kirkgate Arts Centre in Cockermouth puts on a fine programme. And with Arts Council Funding, they extend tours around the coast as far as the Duddon. That's *Arts Out West*. They provide a network of venues for professional and semi-professional artists, making it easy and worthwhile for these acts to tour.

In March *Arts Out West* brought to The Beggar's Theatre in Millom the excellent Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* which has toured all over the country and in plenty of big city venues. On **Friday 12th April**, *Arts Out West* are bringing The **Loshn Klezmer Band** to **The Hill Village Hall**. We have enjoyed plenty of folk groups at The Hill and when some have included Eastern European Klezmer numbers, these got the feet tapping. *Arts Out West* has allowed us to bring a specialist band from London to explore the Klezmer roots of American jazz – so this won't just be Fiddler on The Hill but a fantastic night by brilliant musicians performing what interests them most ... and for £12 ... !

With *Arts Out West*, everything is online. You can easily open an account with them and order tickets with no hassle. Of course, you can buy a ticket on the door with cash ... but better to guarantee your seat in advance. And, if you enjoy the show and have friends near other tour venues, on your account you can buy them a ticket too – such as for Loshn's show in Maryport the next night ...



“To the Lakes!” - early Lake District tourism and Norman Nicholson



Jeff Cowton, MBE, Curator of Wordsworth Grasmere and Dr. Antoinette Fawcett, Editor of Comet, NN Society
Saturday, 20th April 1-3 pm
Holy Trinity Church, Millom
Tickets £5 ring 772084

We are fortunate to have some fine local performers who we welcome back time and again. Bringing in professional acts keeps us on everyone's radar and helps to keep us up to the mark for our local artists ... and yourselves.

Let us know if you are interested in becoming involved in helping with local Rural Touring.
Email thehillvillagehall@gmail.com

Just over Duddon Bridge is another RTS – Highlights Rural Touring whose area is inland through The Lakes up to Northumberland. Grizebeck Community Hall is the closest, and very active.

There are so many great things going on around here, I go to more events around Millom than when I am in London. Its obvious why ... ARTS OUT WEST
<https://kirkgateartsandheritage.org.uk/kirkgate-arts-out-west/>

Jonathan Powell

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS



**South
Cumbria
Rivers
Trust**

Eradicating Himalayan balsam from our rivers

Himalayan balsam is an attractive pink flowered plant, but don't be fooled by its beauty: it is an invasive species that has a devastating effect on biodiversity! It is especially Prevalent around rivers and becks, and when its seeds get carried down the river, it can quickly infest other areas.

Fast growing and tall, with a dense habit, Himalayan balsam quickly colonises entire areas, outcompeting native species for light, space, nutrients and pollinators. When it dies back in the winter it exposes the soil which then erodes, damaging the river banks and endangering trees and other vegetation. Its shallow roots make it susceptible to being washed away when river levels are high, causing further problems when its tough stems and dead leaves cause blockages that can lead to flooding.

Over a number of years the Duddon River Association (led by our Chair, Rick Browne), has been on a mission to eradicate this thuggish interloper from our catchment! Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, we have made a big difference to the badly infested area south of Duddon Bridge, and we also made a large impact on the balsam on the banks of the Lickle last summer. We are now turning our attention to the balsam in Millom Without. We tackled some new areas last summer and made good progress; the first area was around Thwaites village hall, and a second at The Green (along Black Beck from Hallthwaites to the station). Both these areas will need revisiting this year, as it takes a concerted effort over several growing seasons to completely rid areas of the plant and ensure any dormant seeds don't spring into life.

Towards the end of last summer we started work on a large infestation at Underhill which will need much more work this year, as does a newly identified area near Buckman Brow, which had already set seed when we were notified of it. There is much work to be done!

Our Duddon River Association Balsam Bashes take place from the end of May until the beginning of September. We are hoping to get more volunteers involved this year to enable us to completely eradicate balsam from these areas. Volunteer sessions are run regularly through the season, and a couple of hours spent bashing is an easy way to make a big difference to our rivers. Full instruction is provided and no particular skills are necessary! Thanks to balsam's shallow roots it is easy to pull up, and it is very satisfying to see the immediate change to a cleared area. It's also a good excuse to spend some time outdoors with the camaraderie of fellow balsam bashers. If you can volunteer a few hours over the summer to help or would like to find out more, please email duddonriverassociation@gmail.com. We'd be very grateful for some extra hands, and some say it is even quite good fun!!



***Himalayan balsam may look pretty
but it's deadly and needs
to be eradicated***