

The Borrowdale News

December 2019/January 2020



'Red Squirrel in winter coat' by David Woodthorpe

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With Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year

from the Editor and the Editorial Team

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ONLY CONNECT

That is what God seems to have been saying - his message to the world - Connect. He certainly Connected at Bethlehem and He both, arranged a whole cast to observe the occasion, and made it clear how all humans could be Connected.

Shepherds or Farmers got the message. These were people involved in understanding the Environment and providing food. Got to connect with them.

Wise Men arrived - they were foreigners - probably came from the South - people from afar - not Muslims (they had not arrived yet) but they weren't Jews ! Posh people, good camels which are inappropriate to our narrow roads, probably intellectuals, people who studied the firmament and their gifts were definitely strange (if I may use that word) they were loaded and suggestive gifts. Got to Connect with this lot.

Then there were animals in that outhouse or stable - just dumb animals looking on. Get connected with the animal kingdom.

The stars, millions of miles away, adjusted themselves to remind us that they are connected to us. Indeed all of these groups are Connected and interdependent and they are Connected to this birth. Birth by an unmarried mother and surprised Joseph who were temporarily homeless and were about to become refugees. Connect?

So I am suggesting that at Christmas God shows this interdependence, this connectedness. It's His way and those who wish to find themselves will do well to work out their connectedness. That's the Christmas message, that's why we celebrate and that's the way, I humbly suggest, to find ourselves and to find peace. Only Connect!

So to us it is the same God today with the same message. A God of Connections between life here and His eternal life, between all of us and the Enviroment. Connect with those who have died, connect with Jesus who died, but also connect horizontally with the animals, the plants the Sun and the Moon and the Stars. We are all connected

It's not easy to Connect with some people or indeed with parts of our selves, it's not easy to fit into the demands of the world. It invariably requires sacrifice - giving up our precious prejudices, our supposed needs, giving up our selves - but that is the way to Connect and it's fun, it's honest and it's invigorating. This is the way to find yourself.

Have a Connecting Christmas and make some earth moving New Year Resolutions!

Malcolm

THE BORROWDALE STORY 2019

Members of the small committee of the Borrowdale Story have been quite busy again this year. The biggest project is the research for and composition of the exhibition on Mining, which will appear in St. Andrew's Church, Stonethwaite next Easter. Lorraine Crisp, ably assisted by Kevin, has worked really hard to put together an amazing amount of material and I know it will be a very popular exhibition. There will be some modification to the back of the church to facilitate the exhibition which will be completed very soon. Watch this space!

The Borrowdale Story Calendar has been very successful again. At the time of printing we have about 15 calendars left from a print order of 500. We really need you to send in your images for the next version, to me at woodthorpe475@btinternet.com. You can email your Borrowdale photographs at any time; don't wait. If you take a picture you think would be suitable just send me it and I'll keep them all until the selection process next year. We would love to have more contributors. Don't forget that hundreds of people will be admiring your photo for a whole month for each successful image! (Min size of images 1.5MB please)

True to his word, Steve Matthews published my book, 'A Wander to Wonder', which describes in detail a short walk in Borrowdale. It contains around 200 colour photographs of what it is possible to see en route. It is a detailed guide to the most varied and interesting walk in Borrowdale (in my humble and clearly unbiased opinion). I was invited to present it to the Theatre by The Lake for Words by The Water and subsequently by several local societies. It has been getting excellent reviews from them and purchasers alike. It is available from the Chapel in Grange with profits going to The Borrowdale Story. For £10, it makes a nice, nay wonderful, Christmas gift for anyone who loves Borrowdale, photography or natural history!

This year, for the first time, we have decided to purchase two Christmas Trees to place and illuminate outside the Borrowdale Story exhibition to brighten up the place for the festive period. Let's hope we get lots of extra visitors, as well as admirers of them from residents and visitors alike who pass through Grange or along Borrowdale Road.

Our inaugural Bake-a-cake-off competition was a real success and far exceeded our expectations not only in terms of the number and quality of entries or the number of hungry visitors who consumed the produce, but also from the many people who want us to run another one next year. It was great to see so many Borrowdale residents actively engaged and enjoying the event. So, if you have any suggestions about how we could improve or develop it for 2020, then please let me know.

With your help we will have perfect vision for 2020!

David Woodthorpe

NATIONAL TRUST UPDATE

Wild Deer in Borrowdale

This autumn we completed our sixth annual deer census.

We introduced the deer census in 2014 because we were seeing negative impacts from deer grazing: the woodlands were being over-grazed, new tree seedlings couldn't regenerate and mature trees continued to grow older with no saplings to replace them.

It's a simple case of supply and demand. There's a limited supply of woodland grazing in the valley, and in 2014 there was ever-increasing demand.

The trend revealed by the census is that now we've reduced the herd, the deer population has stabilised at a level the valley can sustain, and is no longer continuing to increase.

The overall health of the deer herd is better than it was when we started: the average weight of individual animals has increased, making it more likely that they'll survive a hard winter.

We're already seeing positive impacts in natural regeneration of plants, trees and wildflowers in the woodlands in the valley - especially in the woods where sheep aren't getting in.

All the deer culled from the herd are supplied to a reputable butcher so our work to strike the right balance between the deer and the woods is providing benefits for the health of the herd, the health of the woods and the health of the rural economy.

Deer stalking

To manage the size of the deer herd and to keep it to a level that the valley can sustain, we use a small number of professional stalkers who are working to set targets based on the evidence in the deer census. They work at dawn and dusk during the prescribed seasons following the best practice guidelines issued by the Deer Initiative, the body commissioned by the UK government to advise land managers across the country. We never shoot at night.

Wildlife Crime

Sadly we've also heard reports that illegal poaching is going on in the valley, especially at night. The people doing this are not licensed by us, they are not working to any evidence-based management plan. Unregulated shooting at night could be incredibly dangerous for residents and visitors to the valley, shooting deer at night is illegal, and then there's the whole question of what happens to the

carcase afterwards - could it be finding its way into the human food chain without any of the proper safeguards and processes?

The advice from Cumbria Police is that if you hear shooting at night and you feel concerned, please dial 999. Anyone shooting legally at night should have registered with the police before they go out. You can also email wildlifecrime@cumbria.police.uk

SNIPPETS

Anyone got any beautiful, unwanted **silk flowers**? We think we might be able to use them at Saint Andrew's. Please give **Margaret Braithwaite** a ring (77017.) or leave them at Church.

Snippets has been just a tad involved in **Whitehaven Hospital** recently. Wonderful new building. It's all so smart inside and, to Snippets penetrating eye, spotlessly clean. So many wonderful bits of kits. Beds that look as they cost a cool ton. Lots of different people around the wards. Observed and appreciated Chaplain's visit. Funny thing everyone seems desperately busy and pressured but has not got much time for a bit of crack. Anyway the place delivered and I got the wife back - with much thanks to the **NHS**.

Snippets has problems. **All Souls or Halloween** is a wonderful idea. The Church offers us a day to remember those who have died. The Church reminds us that we should remember and talk about those who have died. The world has taken this lovely concept and turned it into a spooky. Want the kids to have fun and dress up and Trick-a-Treat. Great. Want the kids to understand and talk about death now. Not when they have to face the death of a loved one or indeed their own. **What do Snippets readers think?**

And then there is the old **Yuletide**, which we call **Christmas**. Snippets word this year is: **Only Connect** - that's two words stupid.

Excellent evening at **Seatoller Hotel**. Good food, good wine and as the port went round. The ivories were tickled and the lady danced. All very exciting for the old Snip.

Patricia worked tirelessly to help us Remember. The surprise visitors to our prayers were four **Canadians** whose **Lancaster** crashed in **Johnny's Wood** in the 1940s. They all died - and one of them was the Great Uncle of Hazel who worships with the Valley Church and now lives at Field House. Extraordinary coincidence.

THE POWER BEHIND THE THRONE

Lucy Bestley was born in 1930 in Bramley, Leeds. She met her husband Harold in 1955 in Singapore when they were both serving in the armed services. Harold had been parachuted into France the day before D Day to capture a German battery which was guarding the beaches. They moved to Borrowdale in 1970 when they purchased the Royal Oak hotel in Rosthwaite.

In 1978 Lucy asked her brother Henry to join them in a partnership at the hotel. At this stage Lucy and Harold decided to buy a house in Keswick. Although still very much involved in running the hotel, this gave her more time to devote to her charitable work.



Having a very strong social ethic she had already been involved in the early stages of Oxfam, and was able to contribute to the establishment of the branch in Keswick. Her other work included Meals on Wheels, Lunch Club and Hospital Voluntary Car Service. She can also be seen at the Theatre by the Lake where she has been a volunteer right through from the days of the Blue Box.

Lucy had a very famous uncle, Eric Blair, better known as the writer George Orwell. Lucy was 16 when her mother died, and Uncle Eric invited Lucy and her brother Henry and sister Jane to his house on the Scottish island of Jura.

She has a vivid recollection of an incident which occurred during that visit. Uncle Eric decided that Lucy, Henry and Eric's young child would sail round the island with him in a boat with an outboard motor tied to it. What about the tides? "Oh, it will be okay" said uncle, so off they set. After a while, suddenly there was silence. What's happened? "The engine has fallen off" shouted uncle. Henry grabbed some oars in the boat and managed to start rowing against the tide ... until they hit a submerged rock near a small islet. Luckily they all managed to scramble ashore with the child. What were they to do? Eventually a fishing smack appeared and managed to get them off the islet and to safety.

Lucy thought that uncle Eric at the time was preoccupied with proof reading one of his novels. So, without the prompt and sterling efforts of Henry they could all have been lost at sea...including '1984'!

Back to today. Lucy had served for many years on the parochial church council in Borrowdale, some as church warden. She has now retired from this role, but will still be remembered. The lack of a toilet at St Andrews church at Stonethwaite had long been an inconvenience. Now the provision of a loo in the churchyard was finally realised thanks largely to a generous donation from Lucy.

So now you know the power behind the throne!

Visit **The Institute** Crowdfunding Site and Meet the locals:
crowdfunder.co.uk/borrowdale-Institute-renovation

Please share this with your friends.

Keep an eye on the Borrowdale Story website

- it includes this magazine - **www.borrowdalestory.co.uk**

And of course The Borrowdale Institute: **borrowdale-Institute.com**

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SPOT THE SPOT

What is this?



Answer at the bottom of page 10.

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On **Tuesday 3rd December**, we are having
our **Anniversary Christmas Lunch** in the
Skiddaw Hotel in Keswick. If you would like
to join us, please contact Maggie Potts,
email: randmpotts@gmail.com
or tel: 017687 73582.

Our next monthly meeting will be on
Wednesday 15th January when guest
speaker, **Alan Cleaver**, will talk on '**The
Corpse Roads of Cumbria**' in Crosthwaite
Parish rooms, High Hill, Keswick

The meeting starts with coffee at 10am and
the talk begins at 10.30am. Non-members
can attend as visitors.

EVENTS IN THE VALLEY

- 1st December 10-30am Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite. Patronal Festival of Saint Andrew followed by lunch at Glaramara.
4pm Holy Trinity, Grange. Evensong.
- 6th December 7pm Grand Quizz Night at Institute.
- 8th December 10-30am Holy Trinity, Grange.
- 15th December 10-30am Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite.
4pm Holy Trinity, Grange. Evensong.
- 17th December 9-30am Borrowdale News Editorial Group at Northside.
6pm Borrowdale Institute Trustees at Institute.
- 18th December 6pm Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite. School Nativity Play and Christingle.
- 21st December 6-15pm Carols in Grange.
- 22nd December 10-3 am Holy Trinity, Grange. Plus Blessing of the Crib.
6-15pm Carols in Rosthwaite.
- 23rd December 6-15pm Carols in Seatoller, Seathwaite, Mountain View, Stonethwaite and YHA.
- 24th December 6-30pm Carols at Borrowdale Gates Hotel, Borrowdale, Lodore and Mary Mount.
11-30pm Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite. Midnight Mass
- 25th December 10-30am Holy Trinity, Grange. Carols and Communion.
- 29th December 10-30am Holy Trinity, Grange. 4pm Holy Trinity, Grange. Evensong.
- 5th January 10-30am Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite.
4pm Holy Trinity, Grange. Evensong.
- 12th January 10-30am At The Borrowdale Story. Covenant Service and Communion.
- 19th December 10-30am Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite.
4pm Holy Trinity, Grange. Evensong.
- 26th December 10-30am Holy Trinity, Grange.
- 2nd February 10-30am Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite Morning Prayer.
5pm Holy Trinity, Grange, Candlemas Communion -
Attended by The Core Group.

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Spot the Spot answer - the 'Kala Burr' on a tree near Ashness Bridge