

# **The Borrowdale News**

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**April / May 2020**



**"Goldfinch" a photograph by David Woodthorpe  
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Back by popular demand ....  
... get your oven gloves and baking trays ready!

# The Great Borrowdale Bake-a-Cake-Off



**CANCELLED**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday 25th April 2020**

Great prizes to be won  
Come support this great community event,  
& enjoy tea, coffee & cake

**BORROWDALE INSTITUTE ROSTHWAITE, CA12 5XB**  
**Hosted by: Borrowdale Story**

It is with regret that we have had to cancel this year's Borrowdale Bake-A-Cake-Off. The inaugural event was such a success in producing some wonderful cakes, integrating our community along the Valley and in raising some much needed money. Everyone, whether baker or consumer, seemed to enjoy it. This year's event was to be dedicated, and would no doubt have made a decent contribution, to the Institute's refurbishment fund. However, we have to be sensible about going ahead with large gatherings in confined spaces and it is for these reasons that we must await the refurbishment of the Institute. We are determined to hold another event as soon as it is sensible to do so, so please watch this space.

## NATIONAL TRUST UPDATE

### The Seathwaite Conundrum

Ever thought “I wish that they would do ..... at Seathwaite.”

At the National Trust over the past few years we’ve become aware of a growing number of pressures at Seathwaite which have a knock-on effect elsewhere in the valley.

Not just parking and the increasing numbers of visitors, but more frequent extreme weather events also take their toll. Flooding occurs more regularly and the impact downstream is increasing.

We’re working with our tenant farmers, Lake District National Park Authority, the Highways Agency, Natural England and the Environment Agency to try and manage more effectively the many challenges at Seathwaite.

We want to hear from the community in Borrowdale about the issues, challenges and opportunities to change things for the better at Seathwaite to inform any future plans. We had planned some community drop-in days at the end of April, which we’d obviously had to postpone as the country tackles the spread of coronavirus.

At the moment we’re planning to reschedule once the government advice is that social distancing is no longer necessary.

### Access to the outdoors during the coronavirus outbreak

The National Trust was founded for the benefit of the entire nation. Our role is to help people and nature to thrive, and we exist because millions of us share the belief that nature, beauty and history are for everyone. We’ll try to keep open spaces available as far as possible, including coast and countryside, while observing social distancing measures. We know that you and your loved ones are likely to need space and fresh air and we will do all we can to provide this. We’re urging people to avoid unnecessary travel, and to stay local if they’d like to visit outdoor spaces while keeping to the social distancing guidelines.



*Seathwaite - John Malley*



*Bluebells at Brandelhow Park - Roy Henderson*

## Riverlands of the Derwent

We hold our rivers in common. In turn, they hold us to account for our use of the land. When neglected they are reduced to sullen drains rolling our waste and our soils to the sea. When cherished, they define places, bind communities and enrich us all.

The valleys of the river Derwent are part of the best loved mountain landscape in Britain. The river catchment includes Bassenthwaite Lake, Derwent Water, Buttermere, Crummock Water and Thirlmere along with every river and stream running between them. These are the 'riverlands' of the Derwent. The catchment has many sites of national, european and international scientific, environmental and cultural importance which need significant ongoing care, maintenance and restoration.

Over the coming years our small Riverlands team will be completing projects to restore and protect many of these rivers and habitats along with a work to engage the communities who live and work alongside the rivers.

### Meet the Riverlands team:

Becky Powell, project manager: Becky joined the National Trust from Natural England in 2017 to work on the Riverlands project. With a background in freshwater science the opportunity to work on she couldn't pass this project up.



Alice James, senior project co-ordinator: Alice has been working with the National Trust for a few years and supports several projects across the Lake District..



Kerry Morgan, engagement officer: Kerry joined the National Trust and the project in 2019 and brings with her a wealth of experience in community engagement and outreach work. Over the coming years she will be working with communities on projects close to their heart across the catchment



Jade Allen, Riverlands apprentice: Jade is the newest member of our team and will be completing her Water Environment Worker apprenticeship over the next 18 months.



Penny Webb, countryside manager: Penny has been working for the National Trust in the North Lakes for many years and has a wealth of experience within the catchment. She's just returned from a year's sabbatical volunteering with conservation charities around the world.



## How to get involved

We are also keen to hear from you: How do you view the river? How do you use it and what would you like to see? Later this year we'll be running some guided walks and drop in days where you can hear more from us and share your views.

## Collecting memories

As part of our work we are looking to build a collection of memories from the community in Borrowdale. This can be anything, from how it felt to live through a major flood to skipping stones on Derwent Water as a child. This work can also help us to plan projects.

Do you remember places where ponds used to be? Ponds were once a familiar sight across the Lake District but are less common now. We're aiming to create some new ponds as part of the project. As well as asking for your help in identifying locations for these ponds we're also looking for people to help create them. If you can help with knowledge or practical help, please get in touch.

## How to get in touch

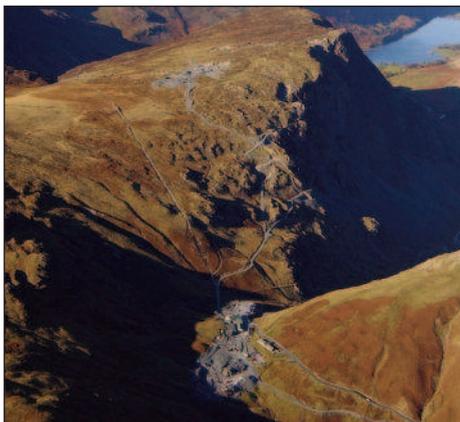
You can contact us on [lakes.riverlands@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:lakes.riverlands@nationaltrust.org.uk) and you can keep in touch with our day to day work on the project in the 'our work' section at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/borrowdale](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/borrowdale)

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## HONISTER - SO MUCH MORE THAN A MINE

Honister Pass is a wild and wonderful place. Wainwright said that "Honister Crag towers dramatically above the road, a savage wall of rock and heather...a place to daunt the eye." Such spectacular drama in the landscape has been recognised by many a film crew in the shooting of adverts, *The A Word*, *Wild Weather*, *Countryfile* and *Coast 2 Coast with Tony Robinson* to name just a few.

Honister is the last working slate mine in England, producing Westmorland slate, a beautiful, functional 450 million year old material that has been extracted in the area since 1728. Although mining ceased in 1985, it was reopened in 1996 by Mark Weir and following his tragic death nine years ago, his partner Jan and brother Joe have strived to continue his work and realise his visions. There are 26 full-time staff,



some being involved in stone production as well as tour guiding, depending on the season.



With 50-80,000 visitors per year the business now has two equal strands, stone production and adventure with a developing involvement in education.

The fascinating, memorable and thrilling adventures on offer provide something for everyone, whatever the weather. The Via Ferrata (Classic and Xtreme) is the most popular activity, providing adrenaline filled adventure (which I found challenging and scary!) There are also mine tours and climbing within the mine. Whilst the controversial plans for a zip wire were given consent in November 2018, engineering revisions have changed the design and plans will be re-submitted in July.

Recent developments have involved working with the Primary Business Partnership within primary schools, covering topics such as the environment, science and history as well as personal skills.

There is an underlying passion behind much that goes on at Honister, they embrace their role as responsible caretakers of a wonderful heritage site and strive to retain local manufacturing skills thus supporting local employment and communities within the valley. Honister is so much more than just a mine.

You can find out more at [www.honister.com](http://www.honister.com)

*Gill Bulch*



## Stop Press

**BIG LOTTERY AWARD TO BORROWDALE INSTITUTE  
- GRANT OF £73,680**

## NEWS FROM BORROWDALE PARISH COUNCIL

### Council Tax and Parish Precept

We are expecting increases from this April in the Council Tax we pay: Council Tax contributes to the costs of Allerdale Borough Council, Cumbria County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria and the Parish Councils.

The part that goes to your Parish Council is called the precept. Like the other authorities, each year the Parish Council considers its budget for the next year and decides whether it will make any increase in the precept.

This year, **Borrowdale Parish Council has decided not to make any increase in the Precept.** It is a small proportion of the whole council tax, but we have decided that we do not want to add to the financial burdens of households. We have enough in the bank to cover the foreseeable needs.

### Coronavirus – COVID 19

We would like to ensure that everyone in the Borrowdale community gets the support they need during the next weeks and months, especially if they are self-isolating or housebound. Many people will already have a support network of family, friends and neighbours but we want to ensure that no one is forgotten.

We encourage everyone to look out for each other, keep supporting your family, friends and neighbours. Teach/learn how to use mobile technology to stay in touch.

We would like to set up the following:

- A system of Village Contacts for each of the following: Seatoller/Seathwaite; Stonethwaite/Longthwaite; Rosthwaite; Grange/Troutdale; Manesty; Watendlath /Ashness. Each community will have a volunteer who can either help with problems caused by isolation such as getting essential supplies and needing someone to talk to, or direct you to where you can get help.
- A network of people who would like to befriend others on the phone, to help reduce feelings of isolation.

How can you help?

- Can you be a **volunteer Village Contact**? Unfortunately this cannot include people who are in the higher risk categories – ie. With underlying health conditions or over the age of 70.

We are asking you to do things like **deliver essential supplies**. We are not asking you to go into people's homes to care for them when they are ill.

- Are you willing to become a **phone friend** to someone? As this will be by telephone, we will be happy to accept volunteers in the higher risk categories for this.

If yes, please contact us by email [Freda.chapman@pfgm.co.uk](mailto:Freda.chapman@pfgm.co.uk) , please state your name, address, phone number and email and if you have a preferred area to cover.

Tel. 017687 77295. **You may also use the leaflet delivered with this copy of the Borrowdale News.**

We know that many individuals and organisations are already planning to do these things and to look after their friends and neighbours – please continue to do this. If your organisation would like to work with us, please contact the above email.

Thank you very much.

### **Some other useful contacts during the Coronavirus outbreak:**

For advice if you have symptoms (temperature, dry cough) Tel. 111 (NHS)

Castlehead Medical Centre Tel. 017687 72025

For up to date information about precautions: [tinyurl.com/vccz7ux](http://tinyurl.com/vccz7ux) (NHS)

For help in protecting your mental health: [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk) | Tel. 0300 123 3393

For help with money matters: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) | Tel. 03444 111 444

Church / pastoral care, Rev Charles Hope, Vicar: Tel. 75855

For urgent help if feeling suicidal: [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org) | Tel. 116 023

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## **From the Church**

Dear Friends

Things are moving so fast. When I wrote my 'bit' for the print edition of the News

it was correct. But on Monday 23rd March, in order for effective social distancing and to minimise the risk of cross contamination, the Prime Minister has ordered us into 'lockdown', including the closure of places of worship.

In solidarity with churches across the land, I am therefore closing: Keswick St. Johns, Holy Trinity and St. Andrew's to everyone. Public prayers will not be said in church. But prayer carries on.

Please pray at home! Remember friends and neighbours in your thoughts and prayers. Remember also all who serve and care for us at this time, from nurses to delivery drivers and shop workers; from doctors to bin operatives. Remember your neighbours be they farmer or hotelier, home worker or retired.

Find ways of looking out for each other. Ring someone every day - not just your neighbours and family, but perhaps someone who you have not spoken to for over six months or a year. In different ways everyone can do something, even whilst we are physically isolated!

For those on email, I am sending out a newsletter and prayer sheet (by post for those who aren't on email and ask for it).

There is also the Church of England daily prayer app - Google it and follow the link. You can access this via the web, Amazon Firesticks, tablet and mobile phones. There is also plenty of on-line worship and prayer materials.

From next week I will be organising Prayer and Bible study groups by Zoom / Facetime / Skype. Let me know and I will make sure you are included. I will also be uploading a service each week from St John's to the Keswick St John's Facebook page. If you are having problems with technology, I have some volunteers who can talk you through it.

Contact me on 017687 75855 or email [vicarcsj@gmail.com](mailto:vicarcsj@gmail.com).

With prayers & best wishes, Rev Charles Hope, Vicar

## SNIPPETS

**Jennifer Caroline Clarke** died in Millfield on 18th January and was cremated at the Carlisle Crematorium on Thursday 31st January.

Years ago **Martin Roscamp**, using several hundred nails - probably intended to keep shoes on horses - made a beautiful cross which hangs in the porch of **Holy Trinity Church, Grange**.

A lady turned up at **Evensong** on Sunday afternoon. Told Snippets she had admired the cross in the porch and used the pattern in embroidering an **altar cloth** in her church in the south. She had used gold or silver thread for the centre piece of the design - nails, probably intended for horses hoofs. Inspired by the one in the porch. Martin was acting sidesman so He was introduced. She had a photograph of the altar cloth. The nails were magnificent.

Snippets wonders if any of his words spoken in **Grange** inspired someone to do something beautiful elsewhere ?

Those crazy **Grange Toilets** must be about to Open. **Snippets** envisages a Great Unofficial Opening and - for those who can afford to get in - free drinks in the ladies. Can't let this moment pass without saying congratulations to **Marlyn Woodthorpe**. With patience, tact and persistence she managed to persuade Allerdale, The National Trust and The National Park to listen to each other and to work together for the common good. Fantastic.

**Andy Roberts** and **Freda Chapman** have shown exactly the same skills in working on **The Institute** Appeal. They have done brilliantly.

## WEDDINGS

On Sunday 22nd December **William Tyson** of Watendlath married **Isobel Mason** at Saint Andrew's Church, Stonethwaite.

### **Pioneer Foods now offers Home Delivery**

Pioneer deliver quality local meats, frozen food, groceries, fruit and veg, wines, ales and spirits, and non- food products to thousands of catering businesses in the area, and are now offering home delivery during these difficult times.

The current range can be viewed at [onlineordering.pioneerfoods.co.uk](http://onlineordering.pioneerfoods.co.uk) and the latest product guide can be found at [pioneerfoodservice.co.uk](http://pioneerfoodservice.co.uk)

Nigel and Trisha Dixon have set up a Borrowdale hub for Pioneer deliveries. to those who are self-isolating so the minimum order of £30 need not be a barrier. Deliveries on Mondays and Fridays, email [nigeljdixon@aol.com](mailto:nigeljdixon@aol.com) by 3pm the previous day. Payment by bank transfer, PayPal or cash, ask Nigel for details.

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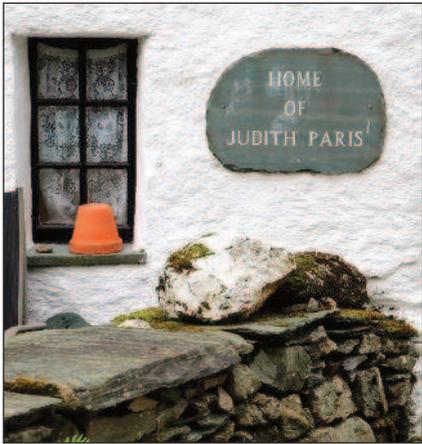
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 Where is this?



Answer at the bottom of page 12.

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Our next monthly meeting is on **Wednesday 15th April**, when our guest speaker will be **Janet Dearden** who will talk about **"The Winner School": experiences of running a language school in Africa**. This meeting will be preceded by the AGM and will start at 10 am in Crosthwaite Parish Rooms, Keswick.

Our meeting in May is in Portinscale Village Hall on May 20th when the talk will be about **"Dogs for Good": guide dogs and assistance dogs**. The meeting starts with coffee at 10am and the talk begins at 10.30am. Non-members can attend as visitors.

## WORSHIP

There will be no formal Sunday Worship in Borrowdale till further notice.

Our Church Buildings will be Open and everyone is invited to enter, sit, think, pray or light a candle.

Charles is circulating some help for each of us as we pray in our own way in our own place.

Charles will be at Saint Andrew's at 6pm on 5th and 19th April and 3rd and 17th May. And at Holy Trinity, Grange 6pm 12th and 26th April and 10th and 24th May

Malcolm expects to continue the daily prayers for the Valley at 9.30 and 5.30 daily at Holy Trinity (except Mondays when he will be up at Saint Andrew's.

Otherwise I don't think we can really identify any group activities. This little magazine will continue (Copy Date 18th May) and we are confident that together we shall make the most of the restrictions. Who knows some good things will come out of the discipline of lone living !

### Contacts:

**Vicar:** Charles Hope. 017687 75855. charleshope@btopenworld.com. Mobile: 07884 070619

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**Chairman of The Borrowdale Institute:** Malcolm Stonestreet. 77671.

malcolmstonestreet@gmail.com

## Stop Press

**BIG LOTTERY AWARD  
TO BORROWDALE INSTITUTE  
- GRANT OF £73,680**

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*Spot the Spot answer - Watendath*