

# **The Borrowdale News**

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**October / November 2020**



**Thank you to everyone who helped to support the valley  
community throughout Lockdown and beyond**

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## THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Never have so many of us breathed a collective sigh of relief as we move into the Autumn of a year like no other.

As Lockdown arrived on 23 March we were transported back in history to a time when the Borrowdale Valley was peaceful, the wildlife seemingly more abundant, and a wonderful kindness and neighbourliness more apparent. It was possible to walk all day and not see anyone.....no need to stick to an hour of exercise per day and those 'shielding' due to medical conditions or age need not fear leaving the house.



*'Peace' by David Woodthorpe*

Yet here is the dichotomy, this idyllic existence amongst such beauty was countered, not only by the serious reason behind it, but by the threat to the businesses and jobs in the valley so dependent on the tourists who visit. It is ironic that the situation was so dramatically reversed in the months to come.

The lifting of travel restrictions happened to coincide with a weekend of stunning weather, and not to put too fine a point on it, Borrowdale was invaded. Having been restricted to their flats, houses and gardens for so long it was entirely understandable that people felt the need to escape, but why did so many have to cause criminal damage, light fires and abuse rules?

It is indeed a privilege to live in this valley and to share it with visitors, though the sheer numbers of 'a different type of visitor' throughout the summer, whilst throwing a much needed lifeline to many businesses, proved us totally lacking in coping strategies. Whilst I will not dwell on the litter, the abandoned tents, the illegal parking, anti-social behaviour, urinating (and more) on riverbanks, lakeshore and behind buildings, what we experienced this summer is unsustainable.

Surely there has never been a more compelling case for the planning of a road which is safe to use by cars (not just pedestrians, bikes and scooters), toilets that can cope with visitor numbers, and the provision of sufficient, discreet parking.

Those organisations who purport to protect our environment, wildlife and culture, and those who market the Lake District as a tourist destination, and other relevant bodies must surely now come together to talk about 'the elephant in the room.'

*Gill Bulch*

## 2020 - THE YEAR EVERYTHING CHANGED!?

This year will be remembered for many things, one being the 75th anniversary of the true end to World War II. Captain Tom shed a little light on what it was like fighting half way across the world in the Burmese jungle.

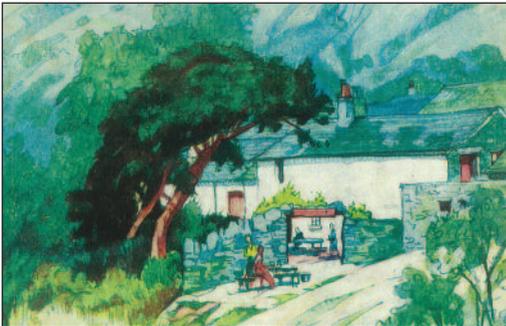
I cannot imagine what an eye opener it must have been for a young man from this Dale. (Remember all this before TV shows everything)

Going to Borrowdale school, possibly going straight to mining - maybe the Honister? Rarely getting further than Whitehaven, Workington, Carlisle, and as a Lance Corporal dying in the jungles of Burma, on the 28th, February 1944, aged 23, and buried at the Imphal War Cemetery there. Like Captain Tom, did he hear Dame Vera Lynn singing there?



*Imphal War Cemetery, Burma*

George William Taylor was the son of Jonah Collin and Violet Taylor of Riverside Cottage in Grange. In those days you could walk over the bridges and across the great barren rock behind what was the Post Office and Shop, now part of Grange Bridge Cafe Garden. You arrived at the cottage where Violet Taylor had a famous tea garden for many years.



*'When River Cottage did teas'*

Nothing as serious or devastating as the loss of a young mans life through war, this valley has suffered from the appalling amount of "litter" and equipment left in our beautiful Dale by some 2020 visitors and it reminded me of a story in a parish magazine of 1978. The first sentence says "nothings changed", now it's just the quantity in 2020!

"The news was as usual gloomy that morning, Massacres, bombings and a general feeling of despairing the future of the world. It seems as if we would never see a time when nations and people would trust each other and hold out a helping hand to their neighbours".

So, in spite of lovely weather and beauty everywhere around Grange it was rather sadly that I went to the church to collect the “purificator” that needed washing. (The little linen cloth used to wipe the communion cup).

Going through the church gate I knew that something out of the ordinary was going on. On the grass was a small boys tractor and trailer. The trailer was brimful of rubbish - toffee papers, ice cream wrappers and the like. The owner had obviously been helping clean up. I continued into the church feeling there was after all good in the world.

Entering church - I stopped - all feelings of despair and gloom vanished. Three very small figures were kneeling in one of the pews - despite kneelers, they could not see over the pew.

One had the prayer book quietly reading to the others. The sun streamed through the windows - it's a pity I disturbed such a moment. Wanting to know what I'd come for, they followed me into the vestry to see the little cloth I need to wash.

Satisfied, they returned to their kneelers, three pairs of hands put together for prayer. I quietly slipped out of the church knowing my day was “made”. The world was not such a bad place after all !!

*Patricia Roscamp*

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### **REV CHARLES WRITES**

The last few months have been a huge challenge to us all in so many ways. The Challenges remain and will do so for a long time to come. We know of the economic, personal, psychological, spiritual challenges.

But there have also been huge positives – the way in which neighbours and community have rallied round to help each other out; the chance to enjoy the beauty and peace of our valley. Thank you to all who have stepped up and done extra for us all.

And a reminder that even in the darkest of times, God has a way of holding onto us, challenging us to look at our lives, values and motives. But also God has a way of leading us into life. ‘Even if I go down into the darkest pit, your right hand will find me’ says the Psalmist; and Jesus said he has come so ‘they may have life, even life in all its fullness’.

The challenges are not going away. They may get worse yet. But the grace and holding power of God is more than sufficient for all of us.

*Charles*

## SNIPPETS

**Amazing kindness** and care by everyone for everyone during the last six months. **So good.**

Snippets detects, nevertheless, a degree of depression that all of us are having to carry in this **Locked Down** situation.

Snippets likes people with **open minds**, open hearts, open doors and open pockets. Snippets does not like being locked anywhere.

**Saint Andrew's** has been locked up for months. Very sad - it's a holy place and it should be open but we have had workmen in there building the new organ. This is very exciting and it will be in use by Christmas.

Talk from The Editorial Team - **could we go digital** with The Borrowdale News? Must ask the readers .... It is inevitable that we shall go digital in due course but at present we feel people appreciate a **magazine in their hand**. We send it through the post to fifty people. Some fifty homes in the valley receive it and do not have a digital connection. So not yet, probably, but soon....

**Toilets** have been opened in **Grange**. Huge thanks to the four agencies who have co-operated to achieve this - Allerdale, National Park, National Trust and Parish Council - but amazing respect, gratitude and thanks to **Marlyn Woodthorpe** who managed to get this lot to work together. We rather missed the opportunity for an **Official Opening** but perhaps with a mince pie at Christmas?

Snippets has observed social distancing outside **The Field** in Grange.



Donations to **Food Bank** in Lent only raised fifty pounds- this was due to the closure of our churches in March.

Others who have suffered financially **The Leprosy Mission** (Coffee Morning cancelled) **Cancer Research** (Valley Arts Weekend cancelled) **Children's Hospice in Carlisle** (Will we Carol Sing this December?) Each of these three charities normally gets a thousand pounds from the PCC.

Talking of which: **locked churches** find it difficult to maintain. Income and our accounts this year may well show a decrease in **Sunday Collections**.

# INSTITUTE

This building is for the benefit of those who live in Borrowdale.

It is a community building for us to enjoy ourselves within. A place to celebrate, to learn, to get fit, to have fun.

It is one hundred years old and for a hundred years it has delivered all this and a lot more - for the people of Borrowdale. Films, youth clubs, sport, hunt balls, suppers, fund raisers, competitions, produce shows - you name it. The Tute delivered.



The present trustee board has been given the opportunity of giving the old building a face-lift, a refit and a new look and new feel.



It will reopen in Spring 2021.

It will offer three distinct areas:

**The Hall** - Typical village hall for sports, large meetings, celebrations, weddings and of course ideal facilities for our local school. This will be clean, well lit, well heated and decorated. It will be a large flexible area with stage, special lighting and, of course, the interior of a marquee that can be quickly erected for special occasions.

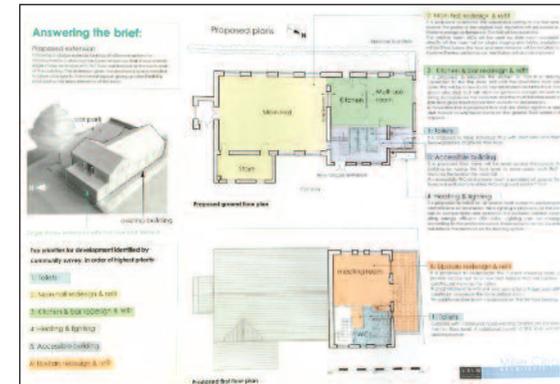
**The Community Room and Bar** - This will be open plan to our totally new modern kitchen and bar. For small gatherings, 25 to 30 people, it will be informal, relaxing and friendly. Ideal space for committee and council meetings, a place for parties and small group meetings it should be trouble free, intimate and 'just right'

**Upstairs will have a different feel** - The Herdwick Suite will be a more formal meeting place for up to 24 people. It will have it's own self-contained kitchen and toilets. It will have access to the balcony with views north to Castle Crag. It will be good for day seminars, training sessions and more formal entertaining. It will have some of The Herdwick Sheep Breeders Association trophies and records and it will honour the role of farmers of the valley, down the ages.

On October 5th Lawrence Fell will start work, as our main contractor, in delivering this dream. The Trustees have been given/raised over three hundred thousand pounds to do this work.

The trustees need everyone's support as they work through this winter. Perhaps in three areas:

The trustees have genuinely tried to consult the inhabitants of Borrowdale, to listen to them and then to devise, with the help of an excellent architect, a suitable building to deliver on what they heard. It will not be exactly right for everyone, but please support them as they move forward.



**1. Fixtures, Fittings, Furnishings** - All the little details which are so important. The trustees need help as they make dozens of small decisions each week about all the little details. If you can bring ideas or skills to the project please just tell them and join one of the small groups for delivery.

**2. And this is the Big One** - Question: Will the valley use the building when it is reopened? We have heard plenty of people answer: Yes, and they have suggested the kind of programme that should be offered. And we have heard people say: No - this sort of facility is not appropriate for the new digital age. Well, the trustees want everyone to have a go at using the place. Setting up groups, experimenting with ideas, having a go. Photography, dance, sewing, gardening - the list is endless. We need to see bookings for April 2021 for the Hall, The Community Room or The Herdwick. Start planning now.

Book now by contacting Nigel Dixon: [info@borrowdale-institute.com](mailto:info@borrowdale-institute.com)

**3. And lastly we have to raise a further £40,000** - To pay for fixtures, fittings and furniture - bar, kitchen and so forth. Half of this by December 1st. The trustees will give a further full report before Christmas - and, yes, then there will be the final push to finance all of this.

## ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN BORROWDALE 1949

I feel it is high time you had your own letter from me. Perhaps you are not in the habit of reading Parish magazines, so I must ask our 'regulars' to draw your attention to it.

"Now, why are you writing to us?" You may ask, and the answer is simple. You are an important section of the community; we need your interest and support in both social and religious activities.

Youth is a time of adventure. Childish pleasures and irresponsibility are beginning to lose their appeal. You are beginning to feel your way into the deeper and richer experiences of life, some tedious, others new and exciting.

It is very pleasing to have your own pay packet to handle - isn't it? Money which you yourself earned with your industry and skill. Of course, you are not out of debt to your parents - but you are aware of an increasing personal freedom.

I expect, too, that you are something of a dreamer. You know, a little more clearly than formerly, what life is about. Your ideals are more definite, your ambitions are taking shape. And what is more, your opportunities to do things are increasing steadily, so that by and by, with your enthusiasm and abilities, you will really win your place amongst your fellowmen.

It is a grand thing to have all your potential and to know that life's door is opening to you.

Older people always have a lot of advice to give you; that is natural, for we are aware what mistakes we have made and the pitfalls which surround you. We would be very mean neither to give help or warning.

The main battle of life is between good and evil. And goodness is inseparably linked to happiness as evil is inseparably linked to misery and despair. Our habit is usually to see 'consequences' rather than 'causes.' We don't get caught out by mistaking shadow for substance, as so many older people are doing today.

It is obvious that the Inventor of the universe, and man, knows best how His 'machines' should run. He has passed on to us the 'blue-prints,' in common language, laws or commandments. Many people today think they know better than God how to manage the affairs of human living. They are wrong and the results show themselves in many ills and much suffering and unrest of our times. It is part of your life-work to help straighten things out. I am sure you wish to join in the struggle. Perhaps you are already 'having a go.'

I want to suggest to you that we have a 'get-together' to discuss religious and social problems as they affect us. Meanwhile come and join us in worship, so as to understand better what we believe, and share with us in giving thanks to God.

It has been suggested that on Sunday nights after service we might have a hymn sing-song if some Grange residents would invite us into their homes.

The call is to youth to do something worthy of their intelligence and ability.

*Yours sincerely,  
R. Pratt.*

### **ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN BORROWDALE 2020**

When you are old you don't give advice. You watch, you ponder and you are amazed.

I am amazed at the 18 to 30 year olds of this Valley and I am sad about the way my generation has behaved. So all I might say is 'don't do it my way'

So the good things I see in this age group are multiple. Hard work, an understanding of the environmental issues - climate warming, ice melting, lots of species threatened to extinction - then a greater understanding of gender, racial and religious diversity. You seem to be much less judgemental than we were. You are better at accepting change, you are open minded, less certain than we were.

Having said that I guess you find commitment more difficult than we did. Automatic and unquestioned loyalty and respect for so called 'authority' The Head of State, Judges, politicians, teachers and, of course, clergy!

Somehow our generation just accepted certain structures. You. I think, question them. This seems to me to be OK if you can replace the old structures, loyalties, disciplines with new ones.

Mr Pratt challenged your moral code. I don't. Mr Pratt suggested that Religion was a useful, key ingredient in all our lives.....

Down history every tribe has developed a religion. Why ? Because every human has potential to grow strong physically and mentally. On top of that every human is spiritual and most of us don't know how to deal with that bit of ourselves. Physically you can go to the Gym and to the doctor; mentally you can go to school and the library. Spiritually we seem to find it necessary to develop a religion - a framework in which to cope with and nurture this part of ourselves.. Sadly my generation has not been able to articulate the religion of our culture - Christianity - in this exciting global world of physics, psychology, huge diversity and confusion. It's a secular world looking for its soul.

The people who could help us are the young people of Borrowdale - I wonder if we are prepared to listen?

*Malcolm Stonestreet,  
Not the Vicar of Borrowdale*

## THORNEYTHWAITE FARM

We're so pleased to have moved to the beautiful Borrowdale Valley and to be developing Flynnne's Barn, the charity we set up in 2018. Our vision is to create a space where young people living with cancer can come together in beautiful surroundings to find friendship and support.

One of the barns at Thorneythwaite Farm is being developed to create the space. The team are doing a fabulous job and we hope to welcome groups by next spring. We were delighted to host a pilot group to stay in the farmhouse last autumn. The weather was on our side and as well as enjoying the autumnal colours we headed out onto Derwent Water in a



Viking boat, visited alpacas, honed our bushcraft skills and enjoyed an evening of music. Our young visitors gave very positive feedback and as well as being enchanted by the beauty of the valley they valued time to share their experiences of living with cancer and to find mutual friendship and support.

We had pilot group visits planned for this year but, as has been the case for everyone in all walks of life, plans were cancelled. COVID-19 has affected everyone in such varying ways. We know that a place like Flynnne's Barn will be needed more than ever in the future. The pandemic has highlighted the adverse effects of social isolation and anxieties about health for us all. Issues that people living with cancer face continually.

We have adjusted our plans and many positives have come from this. We used lockdown time to develop the site at Thorneythwaite Farm and have good friends and neighbours to thank for all their support. We have been networking with treatment centres and charities and in response to the pandemic have set up an online/telephone counselling service for young people in Cumbria.

We know from personal experience about some of the needs of young people living with cancer. In 2013 our daughter Flynnne was diagnosed with a brain tumour. During her treatment Flynnne valued making friends during hospital visits and at charity events. She liked to be with people who "get it".

Flynnne always loved the saying:

"Life's not about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain"

We hope that here at Flynne's Barn we'll see many young people dancing in that Borrowdale rain which we all know so well.

Please do take time to look at our website and we would welcome any local support.

**[www.flynnesbarn.org](http://www.flynnesbarn.org)**

*Katherine Bonner and Robin Ewart-Biggs*

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### **MARTIN AND ISLA AT WORK**

Rosthwaite resident Martin Bell and his eight year old border collie Isla are a Lake District Mountain Rescue Search Dog team. Martin is a member of Keswick Mountain Rescue Team and a qualified paramedic. An active hillwalker and climber, Martin is well positioned in the Borrowdale valley to deploy quickly within the local fells to search for missing people.

The training of an air scenting search dog is a long and complex task. Handlers have to be highly motivated as this is in addition to the training they already undertake in the course of their mountain rescue volunteering.

Grading as a search dog team took Martin and Isla three years. It involved sixteen assessments over footpaths, mountains, through woodlands and across moorland. Assessments took place in daytime and at night, often in atrocious conditions. They graded at their final assessment held near Hollows Farm on the slopes of Castle Crag in December 2015.



Call outs can happen at any time of day or night and can mean working amongst some of the most challenging terrain in England, in all weathers. A search dog team can cover a large area of rough terrain in a fraction of the time it would take a group of humans. This makes search dog teams an invaluable asset when out looking for missing persons or lost walkers.

*Deb Clarke*

<p><b>F &amp; W GREEN (KESWICK) Ltd.</b>  <b>FUNERAL DIRECTORS</b>  19 ESKIN STREET, KESWICK, CA12 4DQ  Contact Zoe Green on <b>017687 72246</b> (24 hours)  <b>m: 07730 520663 e: zoegreenx@yahoo.co.uk</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SKIDDAW</b>    <small>THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Retired or semi-retired and want to stay active, learn new things and make new friends?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Join Skiddaw U3A</b></p> <p>With the easing of the restrictions of lockdown, <b>Skiddaw U3A</b> is restarting many of its activities again so if you are retired or semi-retired and want to stay active, learn new things and make new friends, visit our website <b>www.skiddawu3a.co.uk</b> or contact <b>Tony Marsh</b> on <b>017687 72137</b></p>
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## WORSHIP

- 4th October 10am Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite. Outside/Inside Worship.  
4pm Holy Trinity, Grange. Evensong.
- 11th, 18th, 25th 10am Holy Trinity, Grange. Outside/Inside Worship.  
October 4pm Holy Trinity, Grange. Evensong.
- November 1st 10am All Saints and All Souls at Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite.  
The Gladioli Service.  
4pm Holy Trinity, Grange. Evensong.
- 8th, 16th, 22nd, 10am Holy Trinity, Grange. Outside/Inside Worship.
- 29th November 4pm Holy Trinity, Grange, Evensong.

We plan to continue with the pattern of worship that we have developed during this pandemic. That is five minutes outside the Church for two hymns, then 20 mins inside the Church for Reading, Sermon, Prayer and Communion. As from 1st of October we shall use Saint Andrew's on the first Sunday of the month. Other Sundays Holy Trinity, Grange. The Sunday morning service will be at 10am. There will be Evensong at Holy Trinity, Grange at 4pm on every Sunday.

Mattins and Evensong are said daily in Holy Trinity, Grange (9.30am and 5.30pm).

Sunday 1st November, Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite. 10am. This is the Feast of All Saints and All Souls. We shall lay flowers on the graves of all those buried in our yard since the year 2000.

Sunday 6th December. Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite 10am Advent Sunday - preparing ourselves for Christmas.

## WEDDINGS

21st August in Holy Trinity, Grange. Paul Case & Jodie Kirwan from Southport, but with a qualifying connection to Borrowdale (by attendance at worship when possible).

## FUNERALS

10th July Marjorie Dakin from The Howe, Rosthwaite; funeral at St John's followed by Cremation at Carlisle, ashes to be buried with her son at Crosthwaite.

## THE INSTITUTE

The annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday 5th October at 7pm. Followed by a brief Trustees Meeting.

### Contacts:

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

**Head Teacher:** Borrowdale C of E School. Ralf Smits. 77686. ralfsmits@keswick.cumbria.sch.uk

**Chairman of the Parish Council:** David Hindmarch. 77611. hndiddy1@hotmail.co.uk

**Editor of Borrowdale News:** Malcolm Stonestreet. 77671. malcolmstonestreet@gmail.com

**Chairman of Borrowdale Story:** David Woodthorpe. 77828. woodthorpe475@btinternet.com

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

malcolmstonestreet@gmail.com