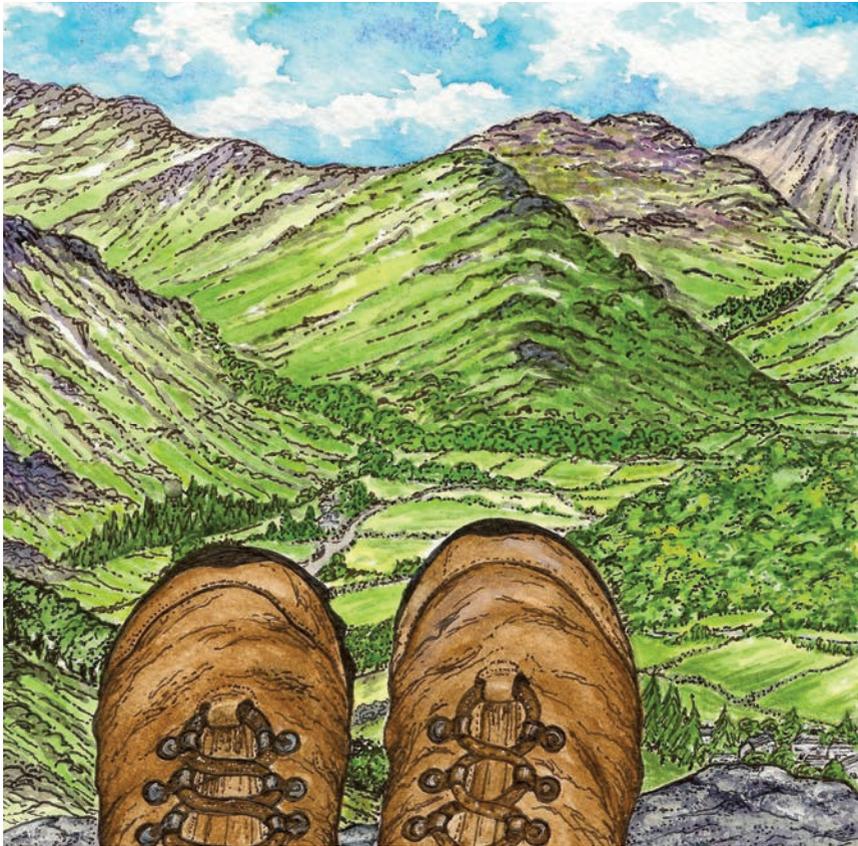


The Borrowdale News

August 2016



'A Rest above Rosthwaite' by Gill Bulch

**(Framed prints and greetings cards of this painting and others are for sale in
Grange Methodist Chapel in aid of The Borrowdale Story)**

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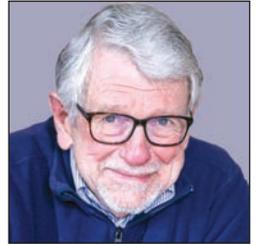
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AFTERMATH

The votes have been cast and counted and the exit gate has been opened. But we have not yet passed through it. Britain is still a member of the EU and is likely to remain such, with full membership rights and responsibilities, until the early part of 2019.

Most of those who voted to leave probably knew that Britain could not pull out overnight. But chances are that even the most enthusiastic Brexiters were unaware that leaving could take two-and-a-half years – and perhaps longer. The reason for this is explained by the two-step process set out in Article 50 of the EU's Treaty of Lisbon. The first step requires a member state wishing to leave to 'notify the European Council of its intentions'. It sets no deadline by which this must be done, and Prime Minister May has let it be known that the Government will not submit such a declaration before the end of this year. The second step follows when British officials meet with their opposite numbers in the EU to thrash out what kinds of relationships the Government would like to forge with the EU, trading relationships in particular. Negotiators have two years to get the job done, though they can be given more time if all member states agree.



Bruce Norton

Why the delay in the Government's declaration of its intentions? One reason is that the Government is buying time to consider its bargaining positions for in the negotiations – and time, too, to assemble a small army of skilled officials to engage in these negotiations. A second reason is more compelling. It has to do with resolving a number of issues that could have an enormous impact on Britain's uncodified constitution.

The most important of these issues is that of parliamentary sovereignty – a principle which lies at the heart of the constitution. It means that only Parliament may enact, amend, and repeal the laws of the land. Most constitutional authorities are concerned that the Government would make a mockery of parliamentary sovereignty if it were to submit Britain's intention to leave the EU without first giving Parliament the chance to decide whether to repeal the European Communities Act 1972, the law that took Britain into the EU in the first place. After all, they argue, there was nothing written into the legislation authorizing the referendum that obligated the Government to accept the result of the referendum as there was in the legislation authorizing the 2011 referendum on change in the voting system. The 2016 referendum was purely advisory.

The Government disagrees with these authorities. It argues that because the EU functions by virtue of several treaties – and the royal prerogative gives the prime minister sole authority over treaties – the government has every right to bypass Parliament. It comes as no surprise, then, that several legal challenges have been brought by those demanding that Parliament be allowed to vote on whether to repeal. Already, a date in the autumn has been set for the Lord Chief Justice to hear arguments in the High Court, and Government lawyers concede that if there is an appeal, the case could go all the way to the Supreme Court.

There are any number of constitutional issues swirling around the referendum on the EU that I've not touches on. But, in my view, the most crucial is the issue of parliamentary sovereignty. Ironical, isn't it, that some who claim that Parliament has no right to debate whether to repeal the 1972 Act are the same ones who have moaned about the loss of parliamentary sovereignty to the EU?

Telephone Boxes

Do you wake up at night speculating how many listed buildings exist in our beautiful Borrowdale Valley?

The answer, is around 36. Mainly farm houses and cottages but also includes six bridges and two telephone boxes (Seatoller and Stonethwaite).

These red boxes are not “just any old telephone boxes” but iconic K6’s, designed by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1935, to commemorate the silver jubilee of King George V (the person, not the battleship that went on to sink the Bismarck) and consequently known as “Jubilee” kiosks. The K6 replaced the K5 and was itself replaced by the K7..... [Editor note, the next 4 pages on the K6 have been removed]. Thousands of K6’s are in existence, so why two should be listed in our valley remains a mystery.



Of course the red phone box remains part of our heritage, can you remember competitions in the 1970’s to see how many people would fit into one? They are now virtually redundant for communication, even in a valley like ours with little mobile phone coverage, few people realise they work and even fewer remember how to use them. Over the years a stream of lost walkers and stranded motorists, waving unworkable mobile phones, have knocked on our door asking to use the telephone. We usually oblige, rather than explaining that a 1935 K6 is situated conveniently at Seatoller.

Possible futures for phone boxes are under discussion: internet hubs, mini galleries or rain shelters? However, through the Community Heartbeat Trust, phone boxes could be life savers. In September the family and colleagues of Mike Hodgson (formerly of the Langstrath Hotel, who died during a local bike ride) aim to fundraise by an epic “Bike for Mike” ride from Keswick to London. Community Heartbeat Trust aims to equip some redundant phone boxes with Emergency Defibrillators, hoping to save lives. Watch the local press for further details.

The bridges are probably the most useful listed buildings, at least they are all used; Folly, Watendlath, Grange, Rosthwaite, Ashness and Stockley Bridge. A suggestion for the future may be to list the public toilets, would this stop them being privatised and turned into tapas bars?

This epistle has been written on behalf of the Borrowdale Story to promote Borrowdale.

WORKING WITH OUR TENANTS AND NEIGHBOURING FARMERS IN BORROWDALE

A glorious sunny day in Borrowdale, saw a gathering of the graziers of the Langstrath valley, staff from Natural England, and members of the National Trust North Lakes team responsible for the common.

We were taking a look at the impact of the change of the grazing regime on the common as part of the farmers Higher Level Scheme agreement with Natural England.



The ten year agreement is designed to help improve the health of the landscape by working with farmers who manage the land.

The graziers have agreed with Natural England to reduce the number of sheep on the common, which will improve plant life. The knock on effect is a healthier habitat for wildlife generally. Fewer grazing sheep also improves the quality of water, Stonethwaite water supply comes directly off the common. A more robust coverage of plants helps soil stability as well, reducing the chance of landslips.

As part of the agreement the farmers have worked closely with our National Trust Woodland Ranger, to safeguard the remnants of the ancient trees and improve the chances of their survival in the landscape. An area of 74 hectares was fenced out completely from sheep grazing to encourage the regeneration of the vegetation including shrubs and trees. This was looking really promising on our site visit, with generally a thicker more diverse covering of plants and trees also beginning to come through. Whilst out on site we also discussed the possibility of planting further scattered enclosures for trees throughout the valley. It is hoped that this work will be carried out jointly between farmers and NT staff during the autumn and winter months.

*Penny Webb - Countryside Manager,
National Trust, North Lakes*

What to look for in August....

Cars driving down the valley at 15mph.

Children with fishing nets at Grange bridge,

Cyclists by the dozen and walkers who are lost.

(Yes, August is here!)



*"Well if I'm so 'bloody useless'
perhaps you'd better read the map!"*

The Borrowdale News - SNIPPETS. AUGUST 2016.

Elizabeth Browne's ashes were laid to rest at Saint Andrew's on the First of July. Elizabeth was 96 and had previously lived at The Warren, Manesty.

Emily Pratt has returned from a year in New Zealand. Wales and Dolphins (700 of them) and an Albatross called Coleridge. So that was fairly safe - she is now off to Emmanuel College, Cambridge to read Bio Chemistry, to find a cure for Cancer and to open the best Restaurant. So that's sorted.

I am amazed at the way young people from the Valley **travel the world**. When my neighbour went to Malaysia in the 1940s, with the Royal Marines it was quite a thing.

Snippets has been deep in **Greek Culture** over the last month: first I went to the Theatre by the Lake and saw an excellent production of ELECTRA by Sophokles - born in Kolonus in BC 496. It was an exhausting experience.

Then I went to the **Rosthwaite Institute**, this was rather different, a guy saving another guy from a giant vulture. A chap called Zeus whose boiler had broken down - he was angry, very angry! In fact this was Greece the Musical and here were fifty plus singers, actors, technicians and a few older hangers on enjoying themselves and hugely entertaining a packed Institute -three performances. It was excellent. Enthusiasm, movement, volume (I could hear every word). Just the vibrancy of life.

We have a **great school**, with a great Staff/Volunteer team. We are extraordinarily fortunate. We have some wonderful children and the future is bright.

Every encounter I have with school is emotional. I positively wept tears of laughter when I saw their **Grease**.

The Borrowdale Road has been **resurfaced** - let's see how that works out .

I wonder how many houses have a **water** meter and how many take their water off the Fell. I wonder what colour the water is in Seathwaite.

Working with Glass. I kept the best bit till last. So Snippets visited Elaine Pratt up at Seathwaite. Elaine was head of Modern Languages at Keswick School and had been there for thirty-two years when she retired last year. She is still part of the School Community and does a couple of days a week teaching/advising she has become what I call an Artist and she calls an amateur crafts person! As a leaving present the school gave her a Kiln and she has imagination and enough brass to but the Art Glass that is needed. She is picking up on a skill which goes back to Roman Times and probably the Persians did it too. She makes the most delightful tiles, pictures and articles out of glass. Wonderful colours. I am going to do all my Christmas shopping up at Seathwaite this year. All the income goes to Cancer Research. What an extraordinary woman! *(Elaine is pondering an Open Day with hands on opportunity - contact her on 77357 or raingauge@btinternet.com)*

Worship and Dates...

- 1st August 9-30 am Borrowdale News Editorial Meeting. Northside.
(Copy date for September - 22nd August)
- 3rd August 10-30 am Coffee Morning, Hazel Bank.
- 4th August 12 noon Wedding. Robert Kemp and Debbie Crowther.
Saint Andrew's.
- 7th August Sunday 10-30 am Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite, Michael Webb.
4 pm Evensong at Grange.
- 14th August 10-30 Holy Trinity, Grange.
A Service honouring the Methodist Tradition.
- 20th August 3 pm Blessing of a Marriage. Beth and Ross. Seatoller House.
- 21st August Sunday 10-30 am Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite.
CAKE SUNDAY.
4 pm Evensong at Grange.
- 28th August Sunday 10-30 am Holy Trinity, Grange.
- 4th September 10-30 am Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite.
4 pm Evensong at Grange.

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Advance Notices:

- 18th Sept 9 am to 6 pm Borrowdale Shepherd's Meet Rosthwaite.
- 30th Oct 10-30 am Confirmation and Communion.
Saint Andrew's Stonethwaite with the Bishop of Carlisle.
- 6th Nov 10-30 am Sung Eucharist. Holy Trinity, Grange. Gaudiamus Singers.
- 2nd Dec Farmer's Service and Supper (David Jackson)
Saint Andrew's and The Institute.

NEEDED - a person with skills and IT Software - to take the information we have for this magazine and lay it out ready for print - a monthly task. 2 x A4 Sheets.

Please offer to help: Malcolm 77671 or malcolmstonestreet@gmail.com.

ONE MAN AND HIS DOG

David Hindmarch from Rosthwaite is perhaps best known as the man who can fix your washing machine, cooker or tumble drier, but he also takes on the voluntary role as protector of our red squirrel population from The Borrowdale Hotel to the upper reaches of the valley.

Our native reds have decreased in number considerably due to the Squirrel Pox Virus which is fatal to reds causing a long and painful death. Grey squirrels, an invasive species from US, have developed immunity to the infection but are carriers of it. The virus first appeared in Cumbria in Spring 1998 and in many areas of UK the larger grey squirrel has now displaced the native red.

David's dog 'Jack' will ignore red squirrels, but can scent greys at a hundred yards, eventually barking with great excitement at the base of the tree in which the grey has sought refuge. It is then over to David who uses either baited traps or an air rifle to dispose of the grey squirrel.

David has controlled the grey population for a number of years, averaging approximately 90 per year, though last year the total was 98. Interestingly, this year so far the total is only 9, which must indicate his success.

Many people in the valley actively encourage the red squirrel population by feeding them and there are good numbers in Seatoller, Johnny's Wood and Stonethwaite, though a noticeable decline in Grange has been seen in the last year.

If you would like to support the population of reds, feeders can be bought on-line or at Whinlatter Visitors Centre. They are best attached to a tree where these lovely creatures can be a delight to observe.

