

The Borrowdale News

July 2016



'Foxgloves and Eagle Crag' 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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The Chairman of Our School Governors Writes...

Education, like many spheres of life today, are afflicted by bureaucracy and paperwork, so a lot of my time is spent making sure that the school complies with the law and is meeting all its statutory obligations. This inevitably involves a plethora of mind-numbing policies and procedures that seem to contribute little to our children's education. However, today was different. I had the privilege of helping to appoint a new Year 3/4 teacher to join our dedicated and hard-working team of staff. Any addition to this small, close knit team has a great impact on our children's education and so it is vital that we get it right. It is a tough day for the candidates who are observed taking a 45 minute lesson, they undertake a written task and then take part in two interviews, a tricky one with children elected to the school council where one of the questions might be 'If you created a new flavour of ice cream, what would it be?' I don't think any of the candidates saw that one coming! The day concludes with a second, probably more predictable interview with a panel of Governors.

The Governors have achieved a great deal in recent years against a backdrop of funding cutbacks. Since my children attended the school 20 years ago, a library, nursery and secure reception have been added along with improved staff areas, a dry play canopy, an adventure play area and the school has been made warmer and more comfortable with improved insulation, lighting and colourful new furniture. A school bus has also been purchased to help with the school's transport needs. None of this could have been achieved without the help of the wider school community and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those groups and individuals who have generously donated their time and money to the school over the years.

Over the years I have had the privilege of serving under some distinguished Chair of Governors. My first Chair at Eskdale School was Eric Robson who presented Gardeners Question Time for many years, together with a series on Alfred Wainwright. He was succeeded by another irrepressible character whom we all know and love. Malcolm Stonestreet! I have also had the great pleasure of serving with Alan Leyland who skilfully guided the Governors at Borrowdale School for over 30 years.

So what does the Governing Body do? The Governing Body is tasked with ensuring high standards of achievement for all children in the school. We do this by:

- Setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Ensuring the school staff have the resources and support they require to do their jobs well;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The Governing Body normally meets five or six times a year and much of the work is carried out by the Curriculum Committee, the Finance and Staffing Committee, and the Building and General Purposes Committee.

Borrowdale Primary School is a Church of England School and Christian values are at the heart of everything we do. I would like to pay tribute to Gay Pye and Malcolm for the great contribution they have made to the life of the school over the years and we very much look forward to working with our new vicar, Charles Hope.

I am pleased to be able to report that the school is buoyant and doing very well at the moment. The school currently has 54 children which is the highest I have known, the nursery is fully subscribed, and due to careful financial control, Borrowdale School, unlike many schools around the country, does not have a deficit budget. I can assure you that the Governors will continue to do everything in their power to provide the best education for each and every child.

THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

7-30 am - 1st of July 1916 British Soldiers were ordered to leave trenches and walk into enemy fire - by evening 19,000 had died; 38,000 were injured. The worst day in British military history. Only five miles were advanced and the battle raged until November.

Three men from our Dale, as it was called, were there and a hundred years on we remember them.

All were local quarrymen. That made them much valued, they were used to the use of explosives and tunnelling.

John William Rigg aged 27 died aged 27, on the 14th July 1916, his mother Agnes, at Mountain View, had two other sons in the army. She was informed he was missing. Private Wilson Nicholson died on the 16th September of that year, aged 36. Both are remembered with honour - their names carved in the wall of the great Thiepval Memorial, with 72,000 others, who had no known grave.

Edwin John Boow died 1st July - the first day of the battle - and was buried in No Mans Land. Later he was buried again in Dantzig Alley Cemetery. He was 24 years old and lived at Field House - close to The Borrowdale Hotel - he worked for Mr Leyland and was a quarryman. He was highly respected and endeared himself to Dales folk with his cheerful and kindly disposition.



Dantzig Alley Cemetery, Mametz, France

This quality of character was recognised in Edwin's sisters by Stanley Jones, an evacuee who had lived during World War 2 at Coombe Cottage next to Field House. Stanley returned to the Dale and wrote a detailed and delightful story about life in the Dale as a youngster.

Edwin's sisters - Annie and Mary Boow welcomed evacuees and kept up contacts for years. They were plainly a great couple. Lots of stories about them and further details of Edwin and The Somme Campaign will soon be available at the Borrowdale Story in The Old Chapel.

THE BORROWDALE STORY WEB SITE

Thanks to the efforts of Gay Pye and Catrina Hudson, The Borrowdale Story has had its own web site since 2011: www.theborrowdalestory.co.uk

Since Gay moved on to pastures new, Catrina Hudson has been holding the fort, and now Freda Chapman has stepped forward to take over and re-vamp this web presence. Freda was born and brought up in the valley, and after 40-odd years of living in places as diverse as Middlesbrough, Derbyshire and the Galapagos Islands, has now come back to her roots. During that time, she has designed web sites for charitable organisations, a spa, a travel company, a yacht provisioning company, and a restaurant.



Freda Chapman

So, if there is anything you would particularly like to see on the Borrowdale Story web site, please use the contact form to let us know. As well as the existing content, some ideas might include: wildlife sightings and hearings, valley walks, more in-depth descriptions of the villages, history and folklore such as Millican Dalton and the origin of the Borrowdale Cuckoo (or maybe not); the history of lead mining, farming, the monks of Furness Abbey; TV programmes and films made in Borrowdale; and of course the “Valley Voices”.

Freda says: “The Borrowdale Story is as much about the people as the landscape; in fact, it really isn’t possible to separate the two. So I hope to reflect this in the new design and with the help of others, enhance the web site with new material. And in doing so, reach a wider audience of locals, visitors and those who just love the valley that we call home.”

We will also launch a Facebook page along with the “new” web site.

What to look for in July....

Source:- Wikipedia

The Bracken is back, and it’s hard to miss! Disliked by farmers and walkers, fossil records show it is over 55 million years old.

The good news – it can be gathered and used for animal bedding, fertiliser and making compost and is a remedy for nettle stings if rubbed on the affected area. It provides cover for ground nesting birds such as the Skylark, Yellow Hammer and Curlew and in Asia the emerging fronds are eaten as a vegetable (in Japan called ‘warabi’)

The bad news – it causes such a problem

invading pastureland that at one time the British Government had an eradication programme. It can harbour high levels of sheep ticks which can pass on Lyme disease. It is toxic to most animals and contains carcinogens (ptaquiloside) linked with oesophageal and stomach cancer in humans.



A pernicious and invasive plant, yet it transforms our valley in Autumn turning the fell-sides a wonderful russet colour..... as it dies !

The Borrowdale News - SNIPPETS. JULY 2016.

Ruth Relph, who had recently lived at the splendid Barrock Court near Low Hesketh, was buried at Threlkeld Saint Mary after a large number of people attended her Funeral at Saint Andrew's. A highly respected lady; a farmers wife to the very core and someone who loved lambing time. She was one of the 'old school' and she dealt with life, family, visitors without fuss. She just got on with the job. She was 86.

Millie Deanna Cumber (of the Hindmarch tribe) was baptised on 4th June at Saint Andrew's. The church was full to thank God for this beautiful little girl and to hope (and pray) that she will be blessed and that her parents and god parents will have the wisdom and strength to support her - whatever.

Vanessa Metcalfe has been appointed Tourist Officer for Keswick and District. Vanessa was born in Grange and now lives at Long Corner. We wish her well and look forward to hearing more about the plans which she will be promoting and facilitating on behalf of the community.

Sam Dixon has been travelling in Indonesia. I asked him for six adjectives to describe the experience. He offered Spirituality, Yoga and Sex. So I thought three would do.

We have a **person counter** on Grange Church. In the last month 1,294 people have visited Holy Trinity. Judging from the Visitors Book they appreciate the place. Judging by the Request for Prayer Book many of them are carrying considerable problems and fears.

The Fitzwilliam Quartet gave a Concert at Holy Trinity on Tuesday, 7th June. Every seat was taken and we heard some truly magnificent music - my favourite was Beethoven's Quartet in Bflat major. They loved playing for us - I think they will come again!

Methodists - represented by Revd. Keith Rushton-and our own church and some forty community members joined together on 12 June to thank God for our Queen and to welcome our new vicar-Charles Hope. Suitable refreshment followed in an impressive marquee adjacent to Saint Andrews.

Glass Jewellery. So it's Deborah Powney at Stonethwaite who makes the most imaginative, beautiful and unique pieces of Jewellery. Give her a precious champagne bottle and she will smash it up; take each piece and wrap it in high quality silver; colour it and then thread it with a dozen other precious mementoes into a remarkable necklace or bracelet. And so much more - here is a new business being born in Stonethwaite that will be a huge success.

Still wanting to learn about **Glass Blowing** in Seathwaite but your intrepid reporter is on to it.

Worship and Dates...

2nd July	1 pm - 4 pm Church Fete - Saint John's
3rd July	10-30 am Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite. Saint Thomas's Day. BANNS. Charles. 3 pm. Songs of Praise. The Old Chapel, Grange.
4th July	9-30 am Borrowdale News Editorial Meeting. Northside.
10th July	10-30 am Holy Trinity, Grange. Service honouring the Methodist Tradition. CAKE SUNDAY.
12th July	7-30 pm Borrowdale Story Meeting.
14th July	10 am Clergy Staff Meeting. The Vicarage, Keswick.
17th July	10-30 am Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite. 4 pm Evensong, Grange.
20th July	2-15 pm Borrowdale School Leavers' Service. Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite.
22nd July	10-30 am Coffee Morning. Barrow House.
24th July	10-30 am Holy Trinity, Grange. CONFIRMATION PREPARATION. Charles.
30th July	1 pm Wedding. Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite.
31st July	10-30 am Holy Trinity, Grange. Ian Jorysz. 4 pm Evensong at Grange.

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Advance Notices:

1st Aug	9-30 am Borrowdale News Editorial Meeting. Northside. <i>Copy dates 22nd July and 22nd August.</i>
3rd Aug	10-30 am Coffee Morning Hazel Bank.
18th Sept	9 am to 6 pm Shepherds' Meet.
30th Oct	10-30 am Confirmation and Communion. Saint Andrew's. Bishop of Carlisle.
6th Nov	10-30 am Sung Eucharist. Holy Trinity, Grange. Gaudiamus Singers.
2nd Dec	7 pm Farmer's Service and Supper (David Jackson) Saint Andrew's And The Institute.

FROM OUR FARMING CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture is the main industry of the valley. There are 15 farms and 21 full time workers employed out of a total population of 183.

Sheep are the co-workers in this industry. This year well over 10,000 lambs were born in the valley - a majority being twins. A hundred years ago to breed a twin was unheard of, but now with more dosing and a lot more skill and care + lambing sheds, twins are the norm.



Our lambing starts at the back end of March and our first auctions will be in September (some held back to February/March of the next year) I suspect that three or four farms only breed Herdwick, but most will be mixing in a bit more fat.

Mutton has made a slight recovery - a good joint of mutton, slowly cooked is a rich, flavoursome experience. And here is a 'religious point' mutton is popular in the Islamic Communities in the UK. Ramadan is a great sales opportunity. Most lamb in kebabs is in fact mutton.

90% of the farm land in the valley is tenanted - from the National Trust but most farmers here own or work other land out of Borrowdale.

We still sell lamb throughout Europe but UK imports a lot of lamb. One boat, I observed, brought 44,000 tons of New Zealand Lamb into the country. (New Zealand has no subsidies for the farmer).

Indications are that UK lamb (and Borrowdale lamb) will hold its price at the auctions. We shall be looking for two pounds plus a kilo.

Young Farmers Clubs are amongst the best pieces of youth work in the country - they are also a very good marriage market.

Big changes recently: The introduction of the Ferguson Tractor and the Big Bailers; the move from hay to silage and, of course, the quad bike.

For over a hundred years our farmers have always welcomed visitors/holiday makers. All our farms have a second income, largely from tourism.

All this lambing business come from the Church, of course. Have to say this to satisfy Malcolm - but the old Friars did it first.