

# The Borrowdale News

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October 2016



**'The Elusive Red' 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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## BORROWDALE SHEPHERDS' MEET

It was disappointing to have this year's Meet cancelled due to waterlogged land and the fact that so many vehicles are expected - thus ruining it for farming. Costs of insurance, marquees etc are enormous if cancellation is left to the last minute.

The much missed and late Dick Richardson was an enthusiastic instigator, with others, to reinstall the Meet as an annual event way back in 1986. The first years were OK with sunshine. Sometimes we had 5,000 visitors - perhaps a park and ride bus service could be funded by some organisation that is passionate to keep such traditions alive?

Here are some memories of the importance sheep have in this dale.



*Jeremiah Richardson with "the" champion*



*Sheep from yesteryear find fame today  
- a postcard sold to a collector on the internet*



*Thomas Bainbridge taking sheep to be dipped in  
August 1943 at Yew Tree Farm*



*Peter Jenkinson at Hollows Farm  
- who was helping in the foreground?*



*The Bland family shearing at Nook Farm,  
Rosthwaite, about 1945*

## **A TRUE BORROWDALE CUCKOO? AND ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Trevor Dowson was born in Crag Lea, Grange, the house next to the telephone exchange, more or less opposite Holy Trinity Church.

He now lives in Rosthwaite with his wife Pamela, and is a Director of High Hill Automotive, Keswick, and very much a hands on motor mechanic.

He was elected Chairman of Borrowdale Parish Council earlier this year and his patch includes Stonethwaite, Seatoller, Rosthwaite, Grange, Seathwaite and Watendlath, including most of the lake of Derwentwater and extends to the outskirts of Keswick.

The Parish has a population of 185 residents and 47 holiday lets or second homes.

Trevor's hobbies range from rugby, walking and a little fishing when time permits.

Parish Council Meetings are held every other month in Borrowdale Institute, Rosthwaite, at 7-30pm and the next one is on Wednesday 30th November 2016.

Members of the public are most welcome to come along.

If you have any concerns or just wish to hear what's going on locally, regionally, nationally, or comment on planning matters, Trevor and the rest of his committee look forward to seeing you there.



*Trevor Dowson*

## **WHAT TO LOOK FOR (OR HEAR) IN OCTOBER**

The Red Deer in Borrowdale enter the rutting season during the month of October. Stags appear very dark from wallowing in mud and their own urine, the odour helping to bring the hinds into season.

Rival stags roar and fight for the ownership of the herds of females, and conflict can escalate in evenly matched stags, leading to serious injury and even death.

Roaring Stags can often be heard in Troutdale in October, although the rutting ground itself is at a higher level.





## The Borrowdale News - SNIPPETS. OCTOBER 2016.

**Snippets** was invited to bless a marriage up at Seatoller House Hotel on 20th August. A very wet day but a fabulous tented party for Bess and Ross Routledge of Washington. Wonderful family and friends. They had been legally married before a Registrar in the North East during the previous week - but this was the party. It rained; road flooded, had to return to Grange via Newlands. Both the Farm and Rainguage Cottage were also flooded - and this was August?

A friend attended a superior **Literary Society function** in Notting Hill - London. The star was James Rebanks who shared his life as a hill farmer with the townies. Apparently he was accompanied by two Herdwick sheep and an ancient farmer - surely not from Borrowdale? Anyway this farmer proceeded to hand clip and generally defunctionalize the tups and educate the literati. So a lot of badly water soaked fields made it impossible to hold the Shepherds' Meet this year. This marvellous event which honours the valley, it's story and it's farmers also enriches and enlightens hundreds of visitors. We all appreciate the amount of work and planning that is put in to this sort of event and we wish the Team better luck next year.

Sadly a **Quad Bike** was stolen from Seathwaite. Must keep our eyes open and report.

Big plans for a **Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve** at Stonethwaite. Going to flood the place in candle light. Martin Roscamp has designed, made and presented to us one fantastically beautiful Candelabra. He is prepared to make three more - which is what we need. We have been given £135 to make one more and we are looking for anyone who would be able to give us another one. (We would also value gifts of new or used candles that we could use on the ledges and windowsills.)

We now have **Foot Fall Counters** in both Churches and in the Borrowdale Story. Amazing numbers. About forty individuals enter each of these buildings each day - that was the score in July.

Snippets was asked to do a **Baptism at Saint John's** - 2pm Sunday afternoon. It turned out to be a job lot - Karrie Louise, Rebecca, Skylar Marie, Ryhs Christopher, Tyler John and Morgan Nicolas - and all Lowthers. Wonderful family, wonderful friends and a good 'do' at the Cons Club. Welcome to The Body of Christ!

Apparently **Broadband** has arrived in Rosthwaite. Do we have it in Grange yet? Well yes but no. Sadly it looks as if BT is not going to attempt to serve further up the valley. This means people who wish to run their business from home, and live in Seathwaite, have to travel to Keswick and use a public connection. BT should realise the importance of serving all the people and those who live in relatively isolated areas are important.

## Worship and Dates...

2nd October	10.30 Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite, Harvest Thanksgiving. 4pm Holy Trinity, Grange. Evensong. Harvest Thanksgiving.
3rd October	9.30 Borrowdale News Editorial Meeting. Northside.
9th October	10.30 Holy Trinity, Grange. Service Honouring the Methodist Tradition.
12th October	1pm The Church in Borrowdale Council. Northside.
16th October	10.30 Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite. 4pm Holy Trinity, Grange. Evensong.
23rd October	10.30 Holy Trinity, Grange (CAKE SUNDAY)
30th October	10.30 Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite. Confirmation. The Bishop of Carlisle.
6th November	10.30 Holy Trinity, Grange. Guadiumus Choir.

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### Advance Notices:

2nd December	7pm Farmers Service and Dinner. Saint Andrew's and The Institute.
14th December	12 noon. S.O.P. (stands for Slightly Older Persons) Christmas Lunch. Borrowdale Hotel.
21st December	6pm (meet at The Borrowdale Story, by the Bridge) for Carol Singing in Grange and District
22nd and 23rd December	Carol Singing in the Upper Dale.
24th December	Carol Singing around the Hotels.
24th December	11.30 pm. Midnight Mass by Candle Light + further refreshment at Saint Andrew's Stonethwaite.

## **FARMERS AND THE NATIONAL TRUST RE: THORNEYTHWAITE FARM**

Thorneythwaite Farm was sold recently by a private landowner. It was sold in two lots. The Farmhouse, farm buildings and a small acreage. The land, hefted flock and fell rights. This has produced a national debate and been covered 'on the front page' in The Times and Guardian and the New York Times. Some lovely photographs - anyway Borrowdale News roaming reporters asked the farmers for their views, here are some of them:

- When the hammer falls, that's it. No point in arguing about it. That's auctions.
- The National Trust has ruined a farm in the heart of Borrowdale
- All this change will ruin the barn owl's natural habitat.
- We feel very sorry for the people who have bought the buildings. National outcry! It's not their fault!
- The National Trust Behaved dishonourably. Their attitude and the way they approached the job was not sympathetic. It paid a ridiculous sum of money for Lot 2 with no proper reason as to why they want it so much, other than wildlife preservation. A farmer could have happily looked after and preserved the land/farm as it should be as part of the national heritage.
- The National Trust are the landowners, we are the tenants. If it were not for the National Trust there would not be as many, if any, farms in the Valley.
- Beatrix Potter left so many farms to the Trust to protect the Herdwicks and the National Heritage - the Trust are undoing all of this.
- Apparently the new owners of the farm and buildings plan to live at Thorneythwaite. One of their children has recently died and they have found solace in the valley. They are playing with the idea of converting part of the buildings to be a retreat for those who have recently lost a child. It's a wonderful idea.
- The Trust will rewild the fellside by sheep exclusion. They will graze cattle in woodland areas.
- There is a move, a so called environmental move, to see more of the valley return to nature. To go wild. If this is on the Trust's agenda we would like them to be honest and say so. Is there a future for hill and fell farming as we now have it?