

The Borrowdale News

June / July 2017



'Sheepdog' 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 GREAT GRANGE BRIDGE DISASTER

Of the many wonderful sights known to man
Is the famous Grange Bridge with double arched span.

The tale that follows may fill you with grief
But to spare you such sorrow I'll try to be brief.

'Twas on the Fifth of May Twenty Seventeen
That a disaster occurred (the likes of which had never been seen)
Which caused many people to weep and to wail
In the ancient village of Grange in Borrowdale.

For at 3.50pm on that bright, sunny day
Over Grange Bridge a bus made its way
When the bus must have suddenly lurched to the right
Which caused the passengers a very great fright.

The bus hit the bridge with a very loud crash,
Knocking the wall down, causing a splash
As the beck below was showered with stones,
But luckily it seems there were no broken bones.

A truck arrived after an anxious wait
To rescue the bus from its precarious state.
Villagers arrived to inspect the wall
To be told the bridge must close for the safety of all.

The bus was compared to 'The Italian Job'
But in truth it seems there was nothing to rob.
The bridge would be closed for 21 days
But it could be sooner, the Council says.

This caused much dismay for all the community
Who were used to crossing the bridge with impunity.
The valley farmers were badly affected
With long journeys to make so their lambs weren't neglected.

Shopping and deliveries of milk and mail
Had now to be done via Portinscale -
An extra journey of 12 miles or more
And trade in the cafes became very poor.

Now the moral of this tale is true and sincere
And lessons to all are loud and clear.
Crossing by bus needn't be grim,
The only proviso - you know how to swim!



What's in a Name?

'What a stunner it is,
how shiny and sleek;
put your foot on the pedal
and it'll go like a streak!'

So crowed the admen
about Chevy's new car
before sending it to showrooms
both near and far.

The 'Nova' they called it,
for, after all, it was new,
and those who bought one
felt like the chosen few.

So loved was this car
and so great the demand
that Detroit lost no time
with plans to expand.

To South America they went
with a campaign so bold
but ... after a year,
not one car was sold!

Dismayed and forlorn,
they soon realised their mistake:
from the locals they learned
they'd failed to communicate.

'We'd love a new car,' said they,
'for ours are old and slow.
But we won't buy a Nova
because in Spanish 'No Va' means "Won't Go"!''



Bruce Norton

The Borrowdale News - SNIPPETS. JUNE/JULY 2017

The A Word - that really very good TV film on the relationship between a child (who is autistic) and his family is making a second series - and of course they centre on our School. They also filmed outside The Borrowdale Story, on the Bridge, at Grange. Huge number of people, fantastic kit, technical to the eyebrows.

Lovely appreciative remarks in the **Holy Trins Visitors Book** - beautiful Easter gardens. Truly Patricia is an absolute whizz at so much. Thank you.

We push a couple of hundred copies of this **News** through the letter boxes of B'dale. We also send nearly fifty through the post but lots of people read it online. Go to: www.theborrowdalestoryco.uk and look under News and you will find this edition and all the back numbers - free!

The Road at **Brackenburn** is up. New drainage pipes - less road flooding, but the pot holes on the Borrowdale Road, so cunningly and dangerously disguised, are still a potential killer.

Trudy Harrison kindly agreed to write for this edition as our new MP. Put her off for a few days to see if she still exists post June 8th.

Fitzwilliam are fantastic **NOTE NEW DATE OF CONCERT** June 16th.

New start at **The Institute**. The following elected Trustees: David Hindmarch, David Ryan, Joe Chapel Weir, Andy Roberts, Craig Wood, Gill Bethridge and Malcolm Stonestreet. John Bennet will represent the Parish Council, Craig Fearon The Young Farmers, Freida Chapman the Borrowdale Story. We await Representative Trustees from The Church, The School, The Shepherds' Meet, The Herdwick Breeders Association and the Borrowdale Trust. All ready to go - Development!

Malcolm met a **Nigerian Chief** in Grange Church - strange?

Church sent a cheque for one thousand two hundred pounds to **Leprosy Mission's** work in India following a good Coffee Morning at Northside. Thank you everybody.

Lewis Howell and **Jessica Mitchell**, both of whom live in Gariston, Liverpool, were married in Holy Trinity, Church, Grange on Saturday 29th April.

Snippets has been paddling. **Grange Bridge** very closed. Must get unleakey wellingtons.

Community open evening at Thorneythwaite, Thursday 15th June, 6:30pm

The National Trust team in Borrowdale would like to invite everyone in the Borrowdale community for an informal open evening at Thorneythwaite. On a guided walk, we'll update you on the work we've carried out since October, we'll share with you where our plans have got to, and we'd like to have a conversation with you about creating a future at Thorneythwaite that delivers multiple benefits – for the community and for nature.

We hope you can join us.

Meet at Seatoller National Trust car park, dress for the weather forecast.

WHAT FUTURE? - ST. ANDREW'S AND THE INSTITUTE

The other underused, but highly respected and much loved asset is Saint Andrew's Church, Stonethwaite.

- This is the Parish Church for Borrowdale.
- This is adjacent to and much used by The Church School.
- This is in the middle of our graveyard.
- It is a beautiful building.
- It has recently been painted on the outside.
- It has a new boiler - so its warm.
- It is a good building and is in good nick.
- It's been given us by our ancestors.

BUT IT ISN'T USED ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY THE EXPENSE OF MAINTAINING IT.

So what do we do?

Possibly equip ourselves to be able to offer a really 'special' Cumbrian Rural Wedding venue?

Possibly have a service once a month which is more like a club or Sunday School - primarily for children?

Possibly have an after school club for children once a week between 15-15 pm. and 16-15 pm.?

We are now providing tea/coffee for visitors - free, leave a gift.

We are about to offer visitors an Internet Connection.

We do keep the place open every day - very great thanks to Richard W, the key man.

We are considering a major revamp for the organ - now that would cost a bob or two.

Between March 1st and April 30th we recorded 2,652 people, on our electronic counter, entering the Church. Visitors.

The Visitors' Book constantly thanks us for providing 'This Peaceful place' well peace is a high value commodity today.

The Borrowdale Story has a splendid exhibition at the back of the Church which interprets the valley for the visitor.

We really have got a problem here. It's not primarily a financial one. It's how can this building really help this community. How can our faith, our Story, relate to this valley and its visitors.

INSTITUTE

One of Borrowdale's great assets.

In the past a centre of life for the valley.

And now.....

Well by now a Board of Trustees will have been elected/appointed to work for two years on an exciting Development Plan.

The Trust Deed which will govern their work says:

The object of the charity shall be the provision and maintenance of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Borrowdale (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including use for meetings, lectures and classes, and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for said inhabitants.

This Trust Deed was published in April 1969 and it remains the legal document governing the Institute.

I Guess such development will facilitate and ensure three things:

1. Primarily provide a facility for all the inhabitants of the valley to use as common space for entertainment, sport, education, celebration and fun.
2. An opportunity, when there is availability, for groups outside the valley to book the place for exhibitions, conferences, parties, wedding receptions and other appropriate events.
3. That The Institute is financially sustainable, well managed and that the property is maintained to a high level of excellence.

For this to happen the Trustees will need encouragement, support and enthusiasm from everyone in the valley. They will need ideas and people giving time, wisdom and muscle. When we achieve all of this we will find we have already enriched the community life (simply by working together) and we will find we have created space to share and care for each other that will be (I nearly said 'a blessing!') but it will be good!



Travelling theatre at the institute ... recognise anyone?

SCHOOL FUNDING INCREASING - I DON'T THINK SO!

Many people have asked me about the school funding crisis that is ever present in the media. As a headteacher, I don't usually get involved with political issues in public. We receive instructions from governments and ministers and fuelled by optimism and belief that it will be alright, headteachers and teachers tend to smile and get on with the day, trying to make the best of every situation. But as we are approaching yet another election, I thought it may be interesting to people in Borrowdale how our school's funding has been changing in recent years.

Through the onslaught of change politicians have been battering into submission, whilst disregarding research and opinions of professionals. The general public are deceived by sound bites about raising standards, school systems and funding which are also backed by little or no research and are losing interest in the next announcement that comes along. In the privacy of my car, I find myself snapping at the radio or simply shaking my head in despair...

You may have heard Rt Hon Nick Gibb (Minister for Schools) keen to illustrate that "This year, school funding is the largest on record, totalling almost £41bn. This is set to increase to £42bn by 2019-20." This all sounds great for the general public, and very positive to schools, implying that schools budgets are not only the highest they have ever been, but they are also rising!

However, it certainly doesn't feel like this argument reflects the reality in Borrowdale School's budget in recent years. I, therefore, have explored our school's funding in more detail to establish a picture of funding. Having pulled files from the archives in school, I examined the annual budgets carefully. Coming up with a method to explore funding over time is not straightforward, because it is linked to pupil numbers and the rise of pupils at our school has had a positive impact on the total sum of money given to the school.

School budgets are complex as they consist of a basic funding per pupil (AWPU) multiplied by the number of pupils in the school with lots of additional extras (lump sum; deprivation; low-cost high incident SEN; English as an additional language; sparsity; rates; rents; minus funding caps).

I decided to look at the trends in school's funding in two ways. Looking at the basic funding per pupil in isolation is a good overall indicator of school budget trends as it shows minimum funding over time. Looking at funding this way shows that funding per pupil has slowly decreased by £156 over the last 5 years. The same figures apply across most schools in Cumbria.

But when I combine all the funding streams combined in each year and then divide it across the pupils on roll in that year at Borrowdale School, it shows that funding per pupil has decreased by £673 per pupil between 2013/14 and 2017/18.

The National Audit Office suggests that schools will be facing real terms cuts to funding of 8% by 2019/20 to counteract cumulative cost pressures, such as pay rises and higher employer contributions to national insurance and pension schemes.

Balancing this against the minister's words about school funding being at a record high shows that it is nothing more than political spin that is misleading the public. The real truth is that funding is at a record levels and increasing just to cope with the additional pupils in the school system. (the Department for Education predict that pupil numbers in primary schools will increase by 174,000 by 2019/20 and in secondary schools by 284,000!)

It is therefore fitting to express our gratitude to the support we receive from the people in and around the Borrowdale Valley. Your support makes it possible to run a school that attracts pupils in a time when school finances are challenging. Fundraisers, Volunteers and Governors, your attendance at events, generosity from hotels, hostels and Glaramara all contribute to providing the children at the school with a great start when money is tighter than ever!

Ralf Smit

ON THE SPOT WITH ... DIDDY

1. *Global Or Local view of life?* - Local.
2. *Film, Concert, play or Sofa?* - Film.
3. *Introvert or Extrovert?* - Introvert.
4. *Computer/Internet or Dictionary and Pen?* - Computer/Internet.
5. *Holiday: Scottish Lochs or Goa in the sun?* - Scottish Lochs.
6. *Looking back or planning forward?* - Planning forward.
7. *Had to spend an hour with: Vicar / Banker / Lawyer?* - Lawyer.
8. *Hot curry or Roast dinner?* - Hot Curry.
9. *Borrowdale News: waste of space or marvellous?* - Marvellous!
10. *Cup of tea or G&T?* - G&T.
11. *Bracing walk or a good book?* - Bracing walk.
12. *Favourite holiday destination?* - Cumbria.
13. *First car?* - Mini.
14. *Favourite TV programme/film?* - Forrest Gump.
15. *Favourite Borrowdale view?* - From the top of Kings How.
16. *What would you spend a lottery win on?* - The kids.

Worship and Dates...

- 4th June 10-30 am. Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite.
16-00 pm. Holy Trinity, Grange. Evensong.
- 8th June GENERAL ELECTION.
- 11th June 10-30 am. Holy Trinity, Grange. (Service Honouring the Methodist Tradition).
- 16th June 19-00 pm. The Fitzwilliam Quartet. Holy Trinity, Grange.
- 18th June 10-30 am. Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite.
16-00 pm. Holy Trinity, Grange. Evensong.
- 22nd June 10-30 am. Parish Coffee Morning at Borrowdale Hotel.
- 25th June 10-30 am. Holy Trinity, Grange.
- 2nd July 10-30 am. Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite.
15-00 pm. Grange Methodist Church, Songs of Praise.
15-00 pm. Grange Chapel (The Borrowdale Story) Songs of Praise.
16-00 pm. Holy Trinity, Grange. Evensong.
- 9th July 10-30 am. Holy Trinity, Grange. (Service Honouring the Methodist Tradition).
- 16th July 10-30 am. Saint Andrew's, Stonethwaite.
16-00 pm. Holy Trinity, Grange. Evensong.
- 20th July 10-30 am. Parish Coffee Morning at The Institute. See what's up!
- 23rd July 10-30 am. Holy Trinity, Grange. Convention Preacher.
- 30th July 10-30 am. Holy Trinity, Grange.

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Advance Notices:

Note change of date for Fitzwilliam concert - now 16th June.

- 1st & 2nd October Fiftieth Anniversary of the Opening of Borrowdale School.
- 8th October 10-30 am. Holy Trinity, Grange. GUADIAMUS Choir.
- 24th November 19-00 pm. Farmers Service (and Dinner!)

Visit the Borrowdale Story - www.theborrowdalestory.co.uk

For visitors, geography, news/events
(where you can always pick up on each edition of this magazine).
Valley Voices, Contacts and calendar.



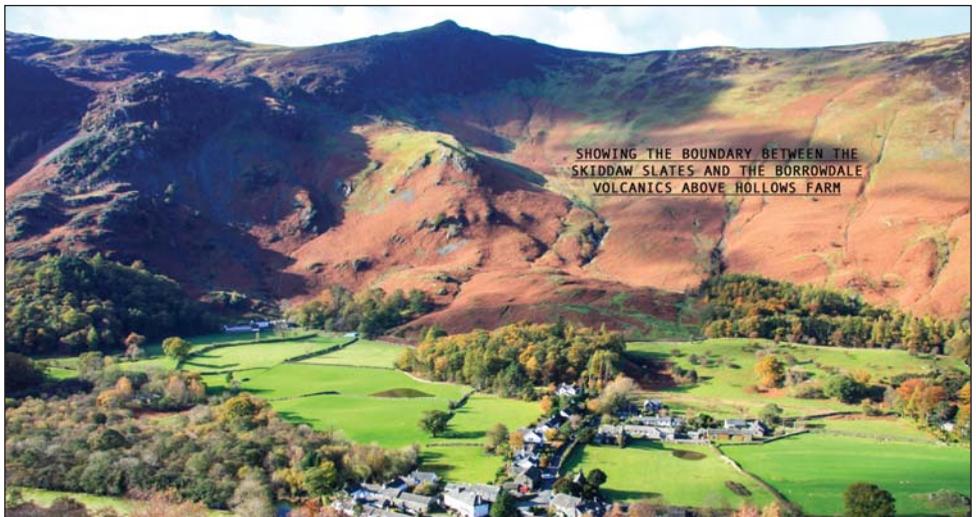
The Fitzwilliam Quartet will offer a concert at Holy Trinity Church, Grange on Friday 16th June at 7pm. Tickets (£12.50) on the door. Full programme and enquiries: Malcolm Stonestreet. 017687 77671.

The Music: Bach, Glazunov, Liz Jaohanson, Beethoven and Schubert's Quartet in D minor.

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THE GEOLOGY OF BORROWDALE IN 300 WORDS!

In the beginning Borrowdale wasn't where it is now. The earth's crust is made of a number of moving plates and 450 million years ago Borrowdale was miles away in the Southern hemisphere on the edge of a continent that was slowly colliding with an ocean plate. As the ocean crust got swallowed the rocks melted and a rim of volcanoes formed, creating havoc by spewing out lava and plumes of ash (think Mount St Helens). The ash and lava (Borrowdale Volcanics) settled in the water on top of the Skiddaw Slates, sediments that were previously washed off the land and already deformed by earlier movements. The final stages of the volcanic activity were accompanied by hot liquids squeezing through cracks forming crystals as they cooled. These became the source of valuable materials such as lead, copper and graphite.



Time passed, the volcanoes were worn down and the land masses carried on drifting to where they are today. On the way they were folded and heated by other collisions to form mountains. The pressure and heat this generated caused the crystals in the ash deposits to line up making them easy to split into layers (Honister Slate).

Much later, during the Ice Age, glaciers smoothed the valley bottom into a U shape with hanging valleys left behind as smaller glaciers joined from the side. As the moving ice lost energy it left behind its own deposits in the form of moraines such as the one between Stonethwaite and Longthwaite. In the North the softer Skiddaw Slates were worn into rounded shapes, whereas the harder Borrowdale Volcanics in the South remained rugged.

A little rain and a little human intervention completes the story and leaves us with the amazing valley that we see today.