

## LOWTHER CONSERVATION NEWS

As we move towards the end of the planting season new woodland and pasture has been planted with about 3000 new parkland trees and 10,000 scrubland trees.

Electric fencing is being trialled to reduce the visual impact and making it possible to control and move grazing. The English Longhorn herd currently numbers over 100 with new calves arriving daily! All but two (around 50 cows) are in calf so the herd promises a significant increase this season. All this year's calves are to be given a name beginning with "W" and the challenge for our community is to suggest appropriate names for this year's calves.

Suggestions for names for calves to jim.bliss@lowther.co.uk or info@lowther.co.uk please.

The Lowther valley beavers are thriving and have constructed eight dams in their enclosure which, added to the works to the River Lowther, has resulted in a significant increase in several species arriving to the valley. Hopefully, the pair are "in kit" and will produce offspring late Spring/ early Summer.

The Lowther conservation team are currently planning and compiling an online survey that members of our local community can contribute to on their walks, which will hopefully enable us to identify the arrival of new species.

A herd of Tamworth pigs are establishing themselves in woodland on the estate where they are constructing nests and improving the ground. Four of the sows are "in pig" and we look forward to news (and photos on Facebook, please) of the new arrivals!

### EASTER SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY (28th March) Holy Communion, 11am at Crosby Ravensworth with Bishop James Bell. Open Air in the church yard with the Bishop of Carlisle 11am at Morland.

Monday (29th March) Compline, Cliburn, Bishop of Carlisle.

Tuesday (30th March) On line zoom service, 7.30pm – Bishop of Carlisle.

Wednesday (31st March) Celtic Evening Prayer, 6.30pm, Bolton. Bishop of Carlisle.

**Maundy Thursday** (April 1st) Holy Communion, 6.30pm, Morland (with the stripping of the Altar & prayer vigil, but no foot washing) Bishop of Carlisle.

**Good Friday** (2nd April) Vigil at the Cross, by Zoom, 2.00-3.00pm. Will also be on the

"Heart of Westmorland" YouTube channel. Bishop of Carlisle.

**Holy Saturday** (3rd April), Easter vigil with Holy Communion, 6.30pm Crosby Ravensworth.

#### Easter Sunday

April 4th	St Peter's Church	Rev, Sheila Clark	HOLY COMMUNION	11 am
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April 11th	St Peter's Church	John and Sarah Banks	Lay led service	11am
April 18th .	St Peter's Church.	???		
April 25th .	St Peter's Church .	John and Sarah Banks	Lay Led Service	11am

Please send items for inclusion in future editions of this Newsletter (next one will be late May) to:

Alex Wilkinson, Scar View 01931712367 email to [AHNewsletter@mail.uk](mailto:AHNewsletter@mail.uk)

# Askham and Helton Village Newsletter

APRIL 2021

At last we are able to look forward to the easing of lockdown restrictions and so there is now some news to report. Firstly, I would like once more to thank Joe Cann for his many years of commitment to producing this newsletter and I hope that I am able to be equally successful. Hopefully, the newsletter will appear every eight weeks or so and, if you have any items for inclusion, I look forward to receiving your contribution. My contact details are below.

The Askham and Helton Residents and Friends Facebook page is also an excellent way to communicate and has a very extensive membership. The village website is updated regularly with Parish Council minutes, Community Centre news etc. See [www.askhamandhelton.co.uk](http://www.askhamandhelton.co.uk)

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

**Car Parking** is now prohibited at the top of the Askham fell road and the gate at the cattle grid is kept closed which has resulted in some rogue parking around the village. The PC is looking into installing improved signage to direct visitors to the Community Centre car park and the Saw Mill (which will begin to charge £2 per day parking fee this month).

The pressure on car parking on Helton Fell has been hugely increased resulting in damage to road and grass. There have also been HGVs stuck on the road. The PC are hoping to have potholes repaired and "No Through Road" / "Do not follow SATNAV" signs erected.

**Askham Bridge** by St Peter's Church has been damaged twice during the last couple of months by heavy vehicles but is now repaired.

**Interpretative Information Boards** Last year an Information Board was installed in the Bus Shelter and there are two additional boards which will be placed opposite Townhead Farm and Opposite St Peter's Church during April.

**Footway Lights/ Road lights** There are a surprising number of lights around the village (some of which have not been working for some time). The footway light at the rear of West Croft is to be repaired by Eden DC at the request of the PC but it remains the policy of the Parish Council not to have lights repaired as they fail.

**"Monty" at Helton** On behalf of the residents of Helton, Mary Westgarth is seeking views on the old village hall's future. Either to form a management group to plan for the building's future OR to stabilise it and allow it to remain a "tidy ruin". Please contact Mary if you have a view on 01931712233 or email [marywestgarth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marywestgarth@hotmail.co.uk)

**Tree Planting** In conjunction with Lowther Estates, Askham & Helton Parish Council are proposing to undertake the planting of around 40 young trees on the village greens in Askham, the aim being to further enhance the appearance of the village, to ensure continuity as the existing mature trees reach end of life and to provide additional habitat for wildlife. We would seek to introduce a variety of native species, in order to add variety, colour, and more varied wildlife habitats and food sources.

The Council are keen to gather the views of residents regarding this proposal, the types of trees, and their distribution around the greens. Parishioners are invited to comment and contribute by any of the following means

By Post: Askham and Helton Parish Council. c/o 4 Grassthwaite Howe, Glenridding, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0PY

By Email: [lakesclerk@icloud.com](mailto:lakesclerk@icloud.com) On the Askham Residents and Friends Facebook Group. Or by contacting any councillor.

**HIGHLIGHTS Rural Touring Scheme** Cumbrian-based artist Liz Jones is offering an Introduction to Lino Printing on Friday 11th June and Saturday 12th June 2021, 10.30am – 3pm, which will provide you with all the skills and tools you need to design and create your very own print. A great introduction for those with little or no prior experience, you'll learn everything from creating an initial sketch to making a design on a block and making a print to take home. You can view some of her work at [www.lizjonesstudio.co.uk](http://www.lizjonesstudio.co.uk)

Date/ Time: Friday 11th June and Saturday 12th June 2021, 10.30am – 3pm,

Venue: Askham and Helton village hall/community centre

Tickets: £25 a day

The cost of the workshop is £25 a day and places are limited and must be pre-booked in advance. Please call Askham Stores if interested 01931712187

See the full programme at [www.highlightsnorth.co.uk](http://www.highlightsnorth.co.uk)

### THE HEALTH BARN

Chris and Ceris are very much looking forward to the rest of The Health Barn Team returning to work from the end of April and being able to offer the full range of treatments once again.

It is with great anticipation that The Loft will also be opening up to run classes, workshops and providing a space to hire as soon as restrictions allow. They are excited to share this with you.

If you would like more information, please head over to the website [www.thehealthbarn.co.uk](http://www.thehealthbarn.co.uk)

### VILLAGE SHOW

**We are planning to hold the village show on Saturday 4th September. Hopefully we will be able to have the show in the hall and with the usual range of classes. Last year we ran a scaled down version which was a challenge in such demanding times but we felt we all needed a bit of cheering up. The small committee are hoping to get together, either virtually or live! and put together a schedule. There will be the usual classes, baking, preserves, crafts, photos, garden produce and young people's classes. Suggestions or offers of help are always welcome. Keep an eye out for further updates**

Contact Laura Harker 712168 / [laura.harker.lh@gmail.com](mailto:laura.harker.lh@gmail.com)

**THE ASKHAM COLLECTION** are pleased to say we'll be serving take away pizzas and the gardens will re-open from 1 April (just turn up, no pre booking). From 12 April when the rules hopefully change again we'll also provide outdoor seating, but for now this isn't allowed.

Also we're still doing take-aways at weekends from the George and Dragon Clifton (advance orders, click and collect). Here are the details:

<https://georgeanddragonclifton.co.uk/takeaway/>

Finally we'll be re opening all our properties Askham Hall, the Queen's Head Askham and the George and Dragon Clifton fully for overnight stays and meals on 17 May, which is based on the government road map.

**THE PUNCHBOWL** We are planning to open for drinks and outside dining from the 12th of April with the inside areas and the hotel opening from the 17th of May

**ASKHAM and DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE** The Hall finally closed on Tuesday 3rd November last year and a few weeks later all the water systems were drained down to protect the pipes from freezing damage. There have been a few DIY maintenance jobs carried out, a testing of the fire alarm system and regular switching on of the heating to prevent condensation damage. We have received Covid related Government grants to assist with the expense of this. The Hall has survived the lockdown in remarkably good condition and a re-opening this year is planned, but entirely in line with guidance and legislation. The first use of the Hall will be for the County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections on THURSDAY 6TH MAY. These were postponed from 2020. The Hall will be open from 7am until 10pm if you wish to vote in person. You must wear a face mask unless exempt for medical reasons and follow all the signed instructions. NAV4 will be holding an outdoor event in June, possibly Highlights will be back and Pauline Ireland hopes to begin a much extended range of keep fit classes also. The Pools may open also in June if social distancing rules are relaxed but not if the Centre Trustees are unable to recruit volunteers to form a Pool management team to organise and run all aspects of the facility.

Shap Chippy have made it clear that Shappy Wheels may no longer be visiting Askham on Wednesday fortnights due to a lack of customers. See their website for information

There have been numerous enquiries about the parking conditions at the Village Hall. There should be space to accommodate 50 cars but often, a large part of the ground is waterlogged and unusable. There is also much peripheral vegetation reducing the available space. A plan is being developed to determine the feasibility of improving the area generally but with the specific intention of maximising the car park capacity and getting vehicles off the village greens which sometimes prevent residents from accessing their own properties **Mike Slee**

### YOUR VILLAGE– YOUR SWIMMING POOL by Linda Collison

The swimming pool is an amazing asset to the village, but it takes a dedicated team to run it. As I am taking a step back after being involved for many years, I am hoping to inspire the next generation of pool lovers to step up.

You will find many people in the village who have “done their time” volunteering at the pool and can recall when pipes were dug, new grass laid, pool painting days and huge fundraising efforts to get heat pumps or repairs done to name but a few. There are also numerous holidaymakers who come with their children now, who remember coming when they were themselves children. There is no doubt that the village wants the pool to remain open.

So why should you volunteer? What are the benefits? How can you help? In a small village, you will always find the same people putting themselves forward to volunteer – and that is the problem. There are those people who say “I can help”, and will turn up on a set day to do a task, but what is really needed is people to say “I can help – I can organise .....” Do you have any skills that you can offer?

Administration – accounts, payroll, health and safety.

PR – social media, advertising

Fundraising – organising events

Staff – Lifeguards, rotas, training

Maintenance -pool preparation, grass cutting, fence repairs

Pool plant maintenance – pump room, chemicals

Kiosk, till training, cleaning changing rooms.

Yes- I know that sounds like a lot of work –and that is why if it is shared amongst a group of 7 or 8 people– and each of them enlist a few other “helpers” to smaller tasks then you have a vibrant community project up and running.

Can you do it? Don't leave it to the few – create a buzz, make friends, learn new skills, have fun, and most importantly go swim. It would be a fantastic achievement to get the swimming pool open this year. To get involved and ensure our pool continues please contact Alex Wilkinson with your name. (details on page 1) .