

KENTMERE PARISH MEETING NEWSLETTER

August 2012

People in Kentmere

We congratulate Jan Booth and Gary Mason on their marriage in Kentmere Church on 14th July. We wish them every happiness in their future life together.

The next Parish Meeting. There seems to be little need for a meeting this month – hence the Newsletter. The next Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 29th October. The agenda will be published nearer the time.

Kentmere's Jubilee Party

for all residents of Kentmere
Saturday 1st September 2012 in the
Kentmere Institute.



Children's Games 3.00 until 5.00 p.m.
Jacob's Join Supper 5.30 for 6.30 for everybody.
Soft drinks will be provided. Bring your own,
wine, beer, etc.

Country Dancing, etc. will follow....

Please contact any of the following to let them know
if you will be bringing sweet or savoury food.

Hazel Brownlow
821568

Christine Hevey
821689 or c.hevey@btinternet.com
Christina Haywood

822039 or christinahaywood@live.co.uk
Jackie Bettess
822977 or jackie@bettess.co.uk

Kentmere Institute

The Institute has been repainted on the outside and paint has been purchased to redecorate the inside. Before that is done it has been decided to add some insulation to the roof to improve efficiency. The funding for the work done so far has been the result of grants from both Upper Kent Local Area Partnership and Upper Kent Neighbourhood Forum.

Community Led Planning

At the last Parish Meeting we talked about the need for a Parish Plan. We have taken advice and it is clear that the benefits are that it can create active communities in which people are empowered to influence decisions that affect their locality. The most important part of it is an Action Plan for projects to achieve the aspirations of local people. The action plan sets out what needs doing, how it will be achieved, by whom, the timescale, and how it will be resourced.

In short it can:

- Foster **Community Activity**. Getting together to talk about your community and take part in consultation events often builds community spirit and people find that things start to get done. For some groups, the challenge is finishing the plan before they get too involved with new projects!
- Bring in **Funding**. Most grant applications require 'evidence of local need' and a Community Led Plan is one of the best ways of proving this. It can also help you persuade authorities to prioritise the actions coming out of the plan, and make resources available, too.
- Influence **Policy**. Increasingly, local councils and partnerships are looking to find good quality information about what issues matter most to communities. A coherent, well put-together plan, which takes account local opinion, can influence how new policies are made, and change existing ones.

The advice we have been given suggests that a useful starting point is to ask the following three questions. Please give them some thought and send your replies to me as soon as possible. The more replies I receive, the better and it will help the Parish Team to plan the next stage of the process.

The questions are:

1. What is good about living in Kentmere?
2. What is not so good?
3. What could be improved?

Iain Johnston

Himalayan Balsam

In recent years there has been an increasing problem with Himalayan Balsam in Kentmere. While the flowers are attractive and popular with bees the plant is very invasive and spreads rapidly if not controlled. Outbreaks have been found at various places in the village and down at the Tarn and are best dealt with by pulling the plants before they set seed. South Cumbria Rivers Trust have organised several working parties in the valley (and elsewhere) over the last few weeks and some residents have cleared patches when seen. There are probably still a few plants around and there will be another working party in the next two or three weeks. If you see any patches of plants can you please let Peter Lansberry know the location. If you clear them beware - the seed pods explode when ripe!

There are also some areas of Japanese Knotweed and attention will be given to those in due course.

St Cuthbert's church bell and the 2012 Olympics

The reaction to our last minute attempt for Kentmere to join in with the national bell ringing celebration of the opening of the London 2012 Olympics was well received by the Parish, according to email responses received. Sadly, the level of volume achieved by the bell ringing "team" turned out to be well below that required to rouse residents from their beds! For this, we apologise. The idea of ringing the bell by means of moving the clapper rather than the bell itself only surfaced some 20 minutes before the 8.12am start time and, unfortunately, ear protection was something that got overlooked in the rush to get down to the bell tower in time. With more notice, we would have had a practice to try and establish a relevant noise level. But at least we were there in spirit, if not in volume (although it did sound quite loud to those in the tower!)

With regard to the progress of repairs to the bell hangings, Tommy Bland the blacksmith has now inspected the bell *in situ* and intends to replace the current hangings and brace the frame so that the bell can be used on a regular basis.

Max Biden

Kentmere Sheep Show

will be held at Millriggs Farm
 Sunday 26th August
 Entries taken on field from 12.00 noon
 Judging at 1.00 p.m.
 Children's Sports at 2.00 p.m.
 Catering on Field

Cumbria's Local Healthwatch

With big changes happening in health and social care services, Cumbria County Council is asking people to have their say on how local people's views should be taken into account. Local Healthwatch organisations have to be in place by April 2013. Much of how Local Healthwatch will work has been set down in law, but government has also said it wants local areas to make some of their own choices so the new organisation meets the needs of local people. A consultation launched on 24 July asks for views on how Cumbria's Local Healthwatch should be set up. It is a new organisation that will act as a 'consumer champion', making sure decision makers understand the views and experiences of people who use health and social care services.

It is particularly interested in :

- What works at the moment (and what could be improved) in terms of provision of information, advice and support about health and social care services;
- Whether the council's "vision" for Local Healthwatch is right; and
- What would make people want to get actively involved with Local Healthwatch.

The consultation is available online at www.cumbria.gov.uk, then click on 'noticeboard' and follow the links. Hardcopy consultation documents are available from Cumbria's libraries.

Local Government Boundary Commission

Following the period of consultation, the Commission has made final recommendations proposing no change to the Kentmere Parish Meeting boundary. We still await the outcomes regarding Parliamentary Constituencies.

Tim Farron MP will be at The Pound here in Kentmere between 12.45 and 1.15 on Wednesday 29th August. If you have an issue to raise with him just come and meet him there.

Kentmere Parish Meeting Minute Book 4th December 1894 – 16th May 2011.

As you know we still have the original handwritten Minute Book used from the date of the first ever Parish Meeting until last year. It is a fascinating document which records a great deal of the history of Kentmere for well over 100 years. It has been photographed page by page by the conservation section of the County Archives Department. We now have a disk with all of the photographs and these have been put on the Kentmere website www.kentmere.org (click the link on the left hand side of the home page).

Some of the pages are very difficult to read with a web browser. Please see the item on page 4. about how to get a better image.

Now that we have a copy for our records, it is our intention to present the original book to the County Record Office – probably at our autumn meeting. We would also like to get the pages transcribed to make them more usable and we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to transcribe a few pages. If you are able to help, please contact Iain or Jackie.

The first entry reads:

“4 December 1894

A meeting was held at the School, Kentmere on the above date, summoned by the overseers, to consider the provisions of the Parish Council’s Act, and to select a Chairman. The Revd R Jackson Pigott was voted to the Chair. The Act was explained by the Vicar and the meeting unanimously decided not to adopt a Parish Council, but to hold an annual Parish Meeting only. On the proposal of Mr William Bland – Kentmere Hall – seconded by Mr John Gilpin – Mags How – the Revd R Jackson Pigott was elected Chairman of the Parish Meeting.

Signed: R Jackson Pigott Chairman, John Gilpin, James Gilpin (March 27. 95)”.

TfK Television for Kentmere

There has been a good response to the request for the 2012 subscription of £25 and the committee would like to thank all those who have paid, whether as contributions or donations. If payment of your current contribution has been overtaken by other events or priorities, we would be very pleased to hear from you as soon as possible so that we can tidy the accounts up for the year. Payments either to myself or Jim Stilling, The Old Forge, and thank you in anticipation.

Max Biden, Hon Secretary, Styehowe.

Kentmere Hydro Scheme – a coincidence?

Chris Huhne, then Secretary of State for Energy, at our meeting over a year ago took careful note of the iniquitous level of Feed-in-Tariffs (FITs) applicable to our hydro scheme. FITs are the amount of money paid to generators for power sold on to the National Grid. Whilst the 2012 review of FITs was widely reviled for lowering the tariffs on PV cell installations by 50%, for hydro schemes a new band has been incorporated as we recommended, raising the tariff by 27% for the size of scheme we had envisaged, but leaving others unchanged.

Broadband

There is nothing but gloomy news from the CCC Broadband Project. Fujitsu have now withdrawn from the bidding process leaving BT as the sole bidder. Other problems are that CCC do not have enough money to do what they want to do and they are having to grapple with EU rules about State Aid. Consequently the bidding process has been delayed and the selection of a supplier will now be considered at the CCC Cabinet meeting in September. If they do select BT as the sole supplier, they then have to finalise roll-out plans which will have to be ratified at the CCC Cabinet meeting in January 2013. That is the soonest we might hear about 'high level' plans (that is areas rather than individual properties) and roll-out should start 6 months after any contract signing. If anyone is desperate for a better Broadband service now, please get in touch with Jackie as satellite is now providing a service to several users in Kentmere.

Garburn Pass

You will be aware that Garburn Pass was finally designated as a Byway open to Restricted Traffic (BOAT) after appeals were heard last year. There is now a new LDNPA sign at the foot of the pass where it leaves the public highway outside the Nook; it has ‘Restricted Byway’ clearly carved in it. It is thus a criminal offence to drive on it without lawful authority.

Residents are reminded that landowner permission constitutes lawful authority and it is actually unlawful to try to prevent anyone using the pass. However, one can enquire politely as to what authority the vehicle has and if not satisfied one should take the number of the vehicle and report it to the police and LDNPA. Jim Sharp's deer manager from Hartsop has a blue Land Rover PK11 TXV.

Highways

There was considerable highway maintenance work done in early July, this time dealing with the road to Hartrigg from The Grove northwards.

Discussions with Cumbria Highways to improve their delivery of service have had some success, and a new system of dealing with issues of carriageway-surface repairs has been instigated by 'Better Highways'. It is based on the pro-forma created by Robert and will be trialled by CCC across South Lakeland area from 5 August. The system involves an undertaking by Better Highways to deal with 6 priorities a year with two-way communications to agree the works to be done. The programming will now take account of the inevitable times of bad weather and become oriented to complete the work tasks before moving on and not simply be a period allocated to each area regardless of conditions (which in our area previously had lead to getting nothing done).

This somewhat unexpected success must be tempered by the fact that it only deals with carriageway repairs - predominantly potholes and their neighbouring defects. The scope of 'Better Highways' does not cover such things as - repairs requiring more than two team-days, highway improvements, lighting, blocked gullies, special works for safety, bridge and retaining wall repairs, general resurfacing works and routine winter maintenance. If we can make the new system work then it can form a basis for getting these other issues into a similar system of dialogue.

The matter of trees in verges has been discussed with CCC and we have been given tacit 'permission' to deal with small saplings in the verges (but not for anything larger). It is suggested that residents form some working parties with hand tools to carry out this work. Yes, it is work which CCC should do, but the simple fact is that they won't in the immediate future and action is needed before the saplings become trees and a more contentious subject. As part of these discussions, consideration of resurrecting lengthsman is on-going.

Recent events on the road – a huge articulated truck was stuck at the church for a considerable time on 16th August - have led to suggestions of

4

having some signs in Polish, and/or other languages to try to prevent HGVs missing the factory and getting stuck in Kentmere.

Jubilee Project

At the Kentmere Parish Meeting on 14 May 2012, it was agreed that one of the projects to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee would be to collect data about all the buildings in Kentmere (see item 7 in the minutes). Many thanks to those who have already contributed information and to those who are still busy working on it. We are very grateful for their enthusiasm.

To help with researching past history we have obtained census records for Kentmere for the years 1851, 1861, 1871, 1891, 2001, 2011 and made these available for easy access on our web pages. They are accessible from the 'residents pages' on the Kentmere web site. Please feel free to use this information if you are researching your buildings. Please note that the records for 2011 are only summaries but we are working to obtain the detailed records and these will be available in the near future. Some of the pages are very difficult to read with a web browser. Please see below about how to get a better image

For those without web access who would like copies of the records for their buildings or if you have any other queries about how to access the records or about the Project, please contact Jackie.

Reading pages from the Old Minute Book and the Census Records

The early pages from the Old Minute Book and the Census Records are very hard to read online. This is because Web browsers are not really designed to render photographs (.jpg files) to a very high resolution. A much better image (to the quality of the original photograph) can be obtained by saving the pages you are interested in to your PC/Mac. You can then view or print them using software designed to handle photographs - Microsoft Picture Manager, Paint Shop Pro, Photoshop, etc.

The Kentmere Parish Team comprises the following people. Please feel free to contact them on any matter concerning the parish.

Iain Johnston (Parish Chairman) phone: 822571 email: parishchairman@kentmere.org

Peter Lansberry (Vice Chair and Finance Officer) phone: 821117 email: lansberry@btinternet.com

Pete Bettess (Parish Clerk) phone: 822977 email: parishclerk@kentmere.org

Jackie Bettess (Broadband) phone: 822977 email: jackie@bettess.co.uk

Robert Courtier (Highways) phone: 821548 email: courtiersatthegrove@tiscali.co.uk

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