



Beckermets Village Newsletter October 2019

Published by the Beckermets Village Association

Printed by Barney's Print Shop, Gosforth, 019467 25069

Chairman's Report

Welcome to the latest edition of our village newsletter which will be an additional copy to previous years. The BVA intend to produce five newsletters per year to give all groups in the community a greater opportunity to advertise their activities, and also to keep residents more informed about their groups and their activities. Hopefully this extra publicity will make more residents aware of the various groups and organisations and hopefully encourage more to join or at least attend the various activities undertaken by them. It is important that these groups and their activities are supported by as many residents as possible to enable them to not only survive but thrive in our local community which has lost like many small communities many of the services it once had.

During my time in the village we have lost a well-known bookshop, our local shop, our post office, a dairy, occasionally one of our locals and by the time you read I have been informed possibly our local garage. It is important that we support local clubs, societies, groups and local business for without the support of local residents then they will not be able to survive and as they say- "use it or lose it" is never more appropriate even in today's world. As pointed out in our last newsletter the Parish Council is in need of more volunteers to be involved in the issues relating to the local community. We all lead busy lives but if you have some spare time to give back to others then there are plenty of opportunities for you to be actively involved. Often people think that such groups are only for others not themselves, but all groups would welcome extra members to either join the

ranks or support their activities so I ask each and every resident to either join or at least attend something that is advertised over the coming months.

Over the past month or so there has been a quiz on sale to raise funds to help towards the cost of the Beckermets Village Newsletter which is delivered to all households in Beckermets free of charge. The closing date was the 1st October and the winners of the quiz will be announced at the next meeting of the BVA on the 10th October. I hope that you found the quiz interesting if you took part and that you made it into a family affair getting all members involved in trying to solve the various questions set. This has become an annual activity which we will hopefully run again next summer.

Please can I remind you that all Beckermets residents are automatically members of the BVA and therefore not only entitled but actively encouraged to come along to these meetings. It is important that we gain as wide a variety of views from as many residents as possible so please make every effort to come along to our next meeting on Thursday 10th October at 7.30pm in the Reading Room.

Next meeting of the BVA will be in the Reading Room on Thurs 10th October 7.30pm

John Mackay (BVA Chairman)

[If anyone requires a PDF copy of this Newsletter or wants to contribute to our next issue please Email \[geoffrey.nugent@outlook.com\]\(mailto:geoffrey.nugent@outlook.com\)](#)

Community Led Plan (CLP) Update

BECKERMET RESIDENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE

In late October/early November the Steering Group of the Community Led Plan will be distributing a questionnaire to all households, to build upon the suggestions received during the successful Open Day held in the Reading Rooms in September of last year.

This questionnaire is intended to allow everyone living in Beckermets the opportunity to have their say about what they think of the present state of the village and how they would like to see it develop in the future.

The survey will reflect and build upon the comments made by those who attended the Open Day, together with a number of other topics, on which residents' opinions would be greatly valued.

The questionnaire may be completed individually or together within the household and there will be a variety of ways in which it may be submitted. Details will be given in the questionnaire itself. Results will be compiled and a full analysis and set of outcomes will be provided in a future newsletter.

Please look out for the questionnaire landing on your doormat shortly!

CLP Committee

Beckermets Reading Rooms

OCTOBER

- 2nd READING ROOMS COMMITTEE 7PM
- 7th ART CLASS 10AM
- 9th W.I. 7PM
- 10th VILLAGE ASSOCIATION 7.30PM
- 11th RACE NIGHT 7PM

This is a fund raising event for the Reading Rooms. There will be a Pie and Peas supper, Pay Bar, and Raffle. Please come along and enjoy the evening, you can sponsor a race, buy a horse(!) TICKETS £7 obtainable from Jean Cowman 841209.

- 14th ART CLASS 10AM
- 16th PARISH COUNCIL 7PM
- 25th A TALK ON THE LONDON TO BRIGHTON RACE BY ROBERT DOUGLAS
Organized by the Reading Rooms.
- 28th ART CLASS

NOVEMBER

- 4th ART CLASS
- 6th READING ROOMS COMMITTEE 7PM
- 11th ART CLASS
- 13th W.I. 7PM
- 17th PRIVATE PARTY
- 18th ART CLASS
- 20th SOUP LUNCH ST. JOHNS 12Noon
- 25th ART CLASS

DECEMBER

- 2nd ART CLASS
- 4th READING ROOMS COMMITTEE 7PM
- 11th W.I. 7PM

The Reading Rooms will be holding their usual Christmas Party. Date and details to be circulated later.

Kathleen Cook 841363 booking secretary

Women's Institute

Venue = The Reading Rooms.
Meetings held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month Start time 7.00pm

9th October (Wed): Speaker - Tony Calvin.
His subject is an illustrated talk and update on the Bees. Competition is, Next Year's Motto.
13th November (Wed): WI Birthday celebrations. Individual entertainment TBA.
11th December (Wed): Carol Concert & Supper.
Competition is, A favourite piece of Christmastime memorabilia.

Angela Walls

Beckermet Nursery

Tel: 01946 841941

www.beckermetnursery.co.uk or

Email: admin@beckermetnursery.co.uk

Thanks

Many thanks to the villagers who donated plants for us last term, our display boxes were lovely this year and the children had great fun with the planting.

Resources

We need/are looking for donations of:

1. Half eggshells (washed)
2. Sweet wrappers ie: quality street, roses etc
3. Empty kitchen roll tubes

Spaces

We have spaces available in November/January if you know of anyone looking for childcare. Call us on 01946 841941 or email

Finally, we must bring to attention that children, and some parents, are still climbing over the security fence of the Nursery to reclaim a football. We are aware that one child has seriously damaged their hand on the top edge of the fence. We of course send our sympathy to the family but must point out that this should send out a warning to all.

Tricia and Staff

NSPCC

Our next fundraising event will be a Quiz Night with Pie and Peas at the White Mare on Wednesday 9th October 6.30 for 7pm. This is a synchronized county quiz with an overall county prize plus a White Mare cash prize. Kindly sponsored by White Mare Hotel and G & A M Lawson. Please contact your friends and get together a team to support this worthy cause. (Maximum 8 people per team). Tickets are only £5 per person and are available from The White Mare, Val on 841485 or Sandra on 841860

Val Mckee

Parish Council Notes

We would like to announce that Peter Manning has now resigned from the Parish Council and is leaving the village to spend more time with his family. We wish to thank Peter for all his dedication and hard work to the village over many years, he will be greatly missed.

Beckermet with Thornhill PC

Trudy Harrison

Work on a new and exciting project for our coastline has started which will see local communities transformed with attractions, activities and services. The 40-mile route will extend from Whitehaven to Millom - featuring adrenalin activities and cycling facilities. This Connecting Cumbria's Hidden Coast project received just over £1million from the Government through the Coastal Communities Fund, as well as £605,000 from Sellafield Ltd. It promises innovative opportunities and is being led by Copeland Council. Eric Barker, the council's former community regeneration officer, has been appointed as officer responsible for the ambitious project and behind-the-scenes work is currently under way. The Government funding was part of a £36million package for coastal projects nationally, a huge investment into our heritage. It is likely we will start to see things happening over the next few months before, it is hoped, the first phase of the project will be completed by September next year. For our area this is huge news and among the attractions it is set to include a climbing wall at Muncaster Castle, art installations and a cyclists' crossing, over the River Irt, which will solve the problem of a gap in the current path which creates a long detour. The project – which has support from Cumbria County Council, Natural England, Muncaster Castle and the Western Lake District and Coast Partnership – will also include 1.4km of new cycle path and £1.8km of new or improved footpaths. So, it offers another option for sustainable travel to work and promotes health and wellbeing out in the open air among our rugged and beautiful coast.

This way of further opening up of our area, and making it more accessible is key to supporting tourism and attracting visitors - giving them another reason to visit such stunning coastline and stay here, enjoying, spending and then returning. This builds on everything which has been achieved so far including the fantastic work carried out in our communities, by our communities, including cycle paths, play facilities and business development.

It also builds on our unique heritage and provides huge potential for further development and investment.

Indeed, this is just phase one of the project. If further funding can be secured then opportunities include a second crossing across the River Esk and further adventure activities such as kite surfing or sea kayaking, more art installations and potentially further employment

Trudy Harrison MP

A Letter to the Editor

I didn't know that I was scared of cows before we moved from the south to Cumbria. There are cows down south, of course, but they seemed somehow more contained; less homicidal than Cumbrian cows. I know that being scared of cows is funny, because when I tell people they laugh at me. Sometimes they laugh for ages, but I don't think it's so daft. A little while ago a colleague told me how she was attempting to deliver a calf one day when the mother cow got cross and trampled her almost to death. She spent weeks in intensive care and still bears the scars of that incident, along with a pronounced limp and an aversion to dairy.

You might think that cows aren't much of a threat to life in Beckermeth, but I disagree. Not long after we moved here, I took our dog for a walk up a footpath from the village to have a look at the sea view I'd been told about. We got halfway there when a herd of cows came careering down the hill towards us. My dog and I ran away as fast as we could, then cowered behind a gate as the cows thundered past. They didn't kill us, but I'm pretty sure they would've done if we'd got in their way.

Down south, cows are kept in fields with sturdy fences and walls. Things are different up here. Not long ago I was up on Cold Fell enjoying a

stroll with my dog when a herd of hungry-looking Highland Cattle with wicked horns came strolling over a hill towards us. They stopped and stared. We stopped and stared, then we ran away and didn't stop running until we were back at the car. Goodness knows whether they chased us. I was too scared to look behind me, but I guess they didn't as we survived to tell the tale. Then there was the time I stopped to take a photograph of an enormous ginger bull in a field just outside the village. Magnificent Keith, I called him. I got out my phone and was about to take the picture when he suddenly snorted, stamped a colossal hoof and came running directly at me. The metal railing between us didn't seem strong enough to contain him at full speed, so I jumped back in my car and slammed the door before Keith could smash through the fence and head-butt me into space.

I've also discovered that if I want to enjoy the public footpaths up here, I have to play Bull Roulette. It's a terrifying game made up, I think, by mischievous farmers who put "bull in field" signs up on all their gates. So many public footpaths lead to farm fields and I always stand there, staring around, trying to decide whether it's a bluff or for real. I sometimes wonder if there's a tiny camera built into those signs which the farmer and their family watch while they eat their tea, giggling at the terrified southerner who doesn't know whether or not it's safe to cross their field.

All in all, I think I've adapted well to life up here in West Cumbria. I've got used to the cooler temperature, the friendlier people, the huge expanses of beautiful, open space and the fact that you can't get dinner delivered to your door. I hope, in fact, that I never have to live anywhere else, because I love it here. That said, I'm not getting any less scared of cows. I know they are beautiful, with their huge eyes, long lashes, twitchy ears, velvety nostrils and swishy tails. And the boys are awesome with their beefy muscles, shiny nose rings and enormous hooves, but I'm pretty sure those big eyes are just weighing me up to see if I'd make a good meal or a comfy pair of shoes. Maybe one day I'll make friends with cows, but for now I'm going to avoid eye contact with them and wear my running shoes when I'm out in the fells

A southerner in Beckermeth



BECKERMET CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 2nd READING ROOMS Committee 7pm
- 2nd WHITE MARE QUIZ 8pm
- 7th ART CLASS 10am
- 9th NSPCC QUIZ NIGHT 7pm
- 9th W.I. 7pm
- 10th VILLAGE ASSOCIATION 7.30pm
- 11th RACE NIGHT 7pm
- 14th ART CLASS 10am
- 16th PARISH COUNCIL 7pm
- 25th READING ROOMS Talk 7pm
- 28th ART CLASS 10am

NOVEMBER

- 4th ART CLASS 10am
- 6th READING ROOMS Committee 7pm
- 6th WHITE MARE QUIZ 8pm
- 11th ART CLASS 10am
- 13th W.I. 7pm
- 17th PRIVATE PARTY
- 18th ART CLASS 10am
- 20th SOUP LUNCH ST. Johns 12Noon
- 25th ART CLASS 10am

DECEMBER

- 2nd ART CLASS 10am
- 4th READING ROOMS Committee 7pm
- 4th WHITE MARE QUIZ 8pm
- 9th CHRISTMAS PARTY LUNCH 12Noon
For 'Golden Oldies' White Mare
- 11th W.I. 7pm

Details of the above can be found in the text of the Newsletter.