



Beckermet Village Newsletter January 2020

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Chairman's Report

Welcome to the first issue of the Beckermet Village Association newsletter of 2020. Not only is it the first newsletter of the year but it is the first of a new decade as we enter the 20's. Although by the time you read this we will be several weeks into the new year. I would still like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for 2020 and hope that the coming year and even the coming decade are both prosperous and happy for you and your families. Our first meeting this year will take place as usual in the Reading Rooms in the village on Thursday 30th January at 7.30pm. It is important that as many local residents attend, not only this meeting but as many as possible over the coming twelve months as it is vital that the village is represented by as many residents as possible.

Our normal attendance at these meetings is around 12-15 residents, however it would be good to see a few more attend to broaden the contributions from our community. As it is the start of a new year and in fact a new decade it would be good if we could double our attendances on a regular basis. I therefore ask if you haven't already made a new year's resolution please could you make one now and attend at least one meeting during the coming year.

By attending these meetings not only will you have the chance to discover aspects of the village that you may not be aware of but you will also have the opportunity to personally highlight any concerns you may have or put forward ideas for consideration that may benefit others within our community. It is not always

easy to find time to attend such meetings with our busy lives but it is important that as many residents as possible attend as all are welcome. During each meeting we get updates from various groups within the village. The First Responders are one of these who do a fantastic job in getting to individuals in need of medical attention prior to the ambulance service as these volunteers live within our community. The Parish Council also update the meeting with all the work that they are undertaking on behalf of our village community plus keeping us updated on developments within the nuclear industry. This coming year will see further progress on the Community Led Plan which will benefit our village, again an opportunity for all to be involved.

As residents of Beckermet it is important that we get your views on our village. It would be great to see more of you attend. I look forward to hopefully seeing a few new faces at our meetings this year.

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

Community Led Plan (CLP) Update

Beckermet Residents' Questionnaire

Thank you to those who have already completed the village questionnaire, distributed to all households in November.

To give more time to those still to fill it in and therefore ensure as much information as possible is collated, there will be an extension through the holiday period. Could you, therefore, please complete your questionnaire by Friday 31st January. They can be returned to one of the collection points noted in the questionnaire, or they will be collected door-to-door between 24th and 28th January.

Should you require a new copy of the questionnaire, please email either:

spjspencer@hotmail.com
wendie67@live.co.uk or
timandwez@btinternet.com

Don't forget there is a voucher for the White Mare as a prize for one lucky winner!

CLP Committee

Parish Council

The parish council covers both Beckemet and Thornhill, we meet once a month and discuss/arrange various topics aimed to improve and enhance both parishes.

You will see that work is taking place in the park opposite the White Mare, this is essential maintenance to ensure that the children are kept safe when playing. As spring is fast approaching it is important that we complete the work in the coming month. Please bear with us whilst this work is going ahead and make sure you take extra care when in and around this area.

We are also looking to have a small picket fence erected alongside the park to future secure this area and currently waiting for quotes to come in from local businesses interested in carrying out this work on our behalf.

The Parish Council would also like to invite anyone who has, or have had, connections with

the Parish to suggest where any seats / benches could be placed.

If you have any suggestions please contact the clerk, Mrs Gillian Threader, 10 Parkside Road, Cleator Moor, CA25 5HF; Tel 01946 430917; Mob 07743783383; email; gillrthreader@gmail.com, or any of your local councillors.

Finally, we are always looking to recruit new councillors to get involved and bring in new ideas of how we can further improve our community. Please come along and see what we are all about. The next two meetings are Wednesday 19th February, Thornhill social club 7.00pm and Wednesday 18th March, Beckermet reading rooms 7.00pm.

Parish Council Committee

Reading Rooms Diary

JANUARY

25th Private Party
27th Art class 10.00

30th BVA meeting

FEBRUARY

3rd Art class
5th Reading rooms committee 19.00

7th Talk and slide show on the Arboretum in Beckermet admission £3 refreshments

10th Art class

24th Art class

25th Pancake Day 12.15

MARCH

2nd Art class

4th Reading Rooms Committee 19.00

9th Art Class

11th W.I.

16th Art class

18th Soup Lunch 12.00

18th Parish Council Meeting 19.00

23rd Art class

Please come along and support these events and help keep the Reading rooms going. They can also be hired privately for your own event/party.

Kathleen Cook 841363 booking secretary

Royal British Legion poppy appeal

The grand total from the doorstep collections and those in the White Mare and Tarnside Club, was £1,205.01.

Thanks to those people who give their time to go around the houses collecting for this very worthy cause. The vast majority of the money was from the doorstep collectors.

John Roper

Women's Institute

Keeping the WI in the public eye

November 2019 saw Beckermet WI celebrate its 93rd birthday. Quite a milestone having been developed in a village of its size and in a remote setting. Do you know of another club or social gathering who has its beginnings going back so far in the village and still running?

In 1919 women had been given the right to vote if they were aged 30 and owned property! It was due to James William Lowther, Speaker in the House of Commons. (1905-1921), then representing Penrith who Chaired the Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform. The women of the day wanted a say in how their country was run. Not dissimilar from the thinking of today, when you consider how many women MP's are now in office.

The 1st WI in the UK was created in 1915 in the village of Llanfair PG in North Wales. Whilst the WI is none political and none sectarian, they have been responsible for Campaign's over many years. Some you may recall:- *Equal Pay* (1943); *Women Police Officers* (1944); *The right to serve on a Jury*. First campaigned in 1921. Ultimately, this resulted in the Juries Act 1974 plus many more.

We are not short of intelligent and talented people in Beckermet and the surrounding district and it seems a shame that we are not pooling our resources and passing on these skills. Sometimes these may be our hobbies. There will be ladies out there who would like to learn and likewise, potential 'Speakers' who would like to talk about their particular skills. We all have something to offer and thus, in turn, to take away new skills and

ideas. Worth giving another thought?

The Reading room is where Beckermet WI meet. The day is the second Wednesday of the month, 7.00pm (except August). In February there will be an 'Out Meeting', which is to say - they are going out to lunch at the Kellbank Gosforth, so there will not be an evening Meeting.

In March, the Speaker will be Peter Maher, talking about his book, 'Finding Annie'. In April Paul Littlewood is coming from Barrow, on behalf of the Woodland Trust. An illustrated talk.

Angela Walls

NSPCC

A very successful and most enjoyable quiz night in aid of the NSPCC was held at The White Mare on October 9th. 2019. The White Mare very kindly donated pie and peas for 60 quizzers and a generous donation of £200 was received from G & AM Lawson. There was also a bottle raffle and, thanks to our loyal supporters, the whole evening raised a total of £770.70.

Our next fundraising event will be a Coffee Morning in Gosforth Village Hall on 14th February. We are also planning another Race Night in Calderbridge Village Hall on Friday 17th April. We wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to your valued support in 2020.

Val McKee

Nuturing Nature in Beckermet

An illustrated presentation by Dr Thomas Tuohy FSA.

Since 2002, with the help of Phil Braithwaite, Thomas Tuohy has planted over 5,000 trees on three fields in the centre of Beckermet. Biographical Arboretum Little Mesopotamia, BALM, CIO was registered as a charity in October 2019.

Friday 7th February 2020 at 7 p.m.
Admission £3

Thomas Tuohy

Beckermet Nursery

Tel: 01946 841941
www.beckermetnursery.co.uk or
Email: admin@beckermetnursery.co.uk

Parent and Toddler Group

We are in the process of trying to set up a parent and toddler group/drop in sessions for under 2's which will be held in the school hall on a weekly basis, the day is still to be decided. We are looking for donations of toys suitable for under 2's, if anyone has any lying around, we would be more than grateful.

If you are interested in coming along or know of anyone who may be interested can you, please get in touch with Tricia 01946 841941 for further details and to express your interest.

Parking

As you are all aware there are roadworks ongoing on Mill Lane which apparently are planned to last for 3/6 weeks. Could we please ask anyone who collects or drops off at school to park responsibly and not block either end of the layby in front of nursery and please do not park across nursery gates – many thanks

Spaces

We have one or two places available at the moment, therefore if you know anyone wishing to use nursery, please tell them to get in touch. We have full-time and part-time spaces. Call us on 01946 841941 or email

Finally

5th March is world book day. The children will be dressing up as their favourite book character, if you see any little people walking through the village please stop and say hello. Red nose day is 13th March. This time they are asking you to help take on poverty and injustice in the UK and across the world by getting your kit on and raising some life-changing cash. So whether you walk, dance, swim, floss, or round up your mates for a match, order your free fundraising pack, have fun and help to make a real difference. We will be getting our red noses delivery very soon £1.25 11 designs to choose from.

Tricia and Staff ☺

Letter to the Editor

Is it weird to like chimney pots and roof ornaments? Beckermet has loads of variety. There were probably lots where we lived down south, but we didn't have a dog then, so I wouldn't spend hours looking around our home town while she sniffed every lamp-post, gate post, drainpipe and twig. I certainly didn't look up at the roofs much.

I've seen a little pineapple on the apex of a gable end and several chimney pots in the village that look like Thor's hammer. There's a house with 8 almost-identical chimney pots, but one of them is twice the height of all its pals. There's probably a dull, technical reason for it, but I hope the chimney pot maker just did it for fun. There are chimney pots with wire conical tops that look like tee-pee sculptures and others look as though somebody shimmied up there to pop a colander on the chimney for a bet. There are tall, cylindrical chimney pots with swirling lines around them that look like Grecian pillars, and short, squat, square ones with pointed tops like crowns. Some of the tops look like mushrooms, complete with moss and fern growing around them. A few houses in the village have what look from ground level like orange bird baths and I've spotted other orange ones which are quite tall with holes all around the top. That might be something to do with improving draw, but the holes look like good places for bees to rest in. There are lots of half-pipe tunnels for birds to race each other through and a tower reminiscent of the Taj Mahal (if you squint and use a bit of imagination). We have a few weathercocks and some grand chimney pots that look like castle turrets, but my favourite roof ornaments are some little orange bobble hats that I noticed for the first time just before Christmas.

At this time of year, I'm mostly looking down while I walk around the village; spotting crocuses, snowdrops, primroses and aubretia beginning to bloom. They're all pretty and they make me smile, but I can get smiles all year round from looking at Beckermet's rooftops and I don't mind if that makes me weird.

A southerner in Beckermet.



BECKERMET CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

- 27th ART CLASS 10am
30th BVA Meeting 7pm

FEBRUARY

- 3rd ART CLASS 10am
5th READING ROOMS COMMITTEE 7pm
7th TALK AND SLIDE SHOW 7pm.
(On the Arboretum in Beckermet admission £3)
10th ART CLASS 10am
24th ART CLASS 10am
25th PANCAKE DAY 12.15am

MARCH

- 2nd ART CALASS 10am
4th READING ROOMS COMMITTEE 7pm
9th ART CLASS 10am
11th W.I.
16th ART CLASS 10am
18th SOUP LUNCH 12noon
18th PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7pm
23rd ART CLASS 10am

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