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REMINDER . . .

Please don't forget
to feed the birds
now the colder
weather is here



BURTON NEWS

February 2003 Issue 112

Donation 50p

By Public Demand

Burton "Allstars" Return

Friday 21st &
Saturday 22nd February

Burton Memorial Hall

Tickets £6.00 each

See page 2 for booking details





Burton Amateur Dramatic Society

LOST

A metal filing cabinet (new) has disappeared from our props room in the Memorial Hall. It held the prop which is valued highly by any drama group - the doorbell ringer. There were other "valuables" in the drawers but the doorbell is our greatest loss. Can anyone help??

Alison Murphy, B.A.D.S, 781007

Going Fast!

Tickets for the *Burton Allstars* concerts on 21st and 22nd Feb. are running out fast! As numbers are limited due to Memorial Hall fire regs, tickets are being sold on a first come first served basis.

Please note that if you reserve tickets and have not collected them within one week they will be sold to someone else, so **DON'T DELAY - BUY YOURS TODAY!!**

Tickets are available from *Bryn the Butcher* at a cost of £6 each.

Please would readers note that letters for these pages must include a valid name & address. This can be with-held from publication on request. We will not publish any anonymous letters.

Thanks!

Children's Society

Money collected from the Children's Society boxes this year totalled £336.88. Many thanks to all those who have boxes.

Thelma

Thank You

A big thank you to Glenis Smith for all your hard work for the Memorial Hall over the past years. We hope that you enjoy your "retirement" from this very demanding job. Best wishes from us all.

Burton News Committee

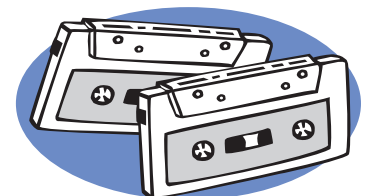
Queen Elizabeth School PTA

send a big thank you to all who supported the Christmas Fair and contributed to a successful evening.

We value your help and attendance which is what makes it the warm & friendly event we always hope for.



**Happy Valentine's Day
to all our readers**



BN on Tape!

A reminder that Burton News can be obtained on audio tape for those with a visual impairment.

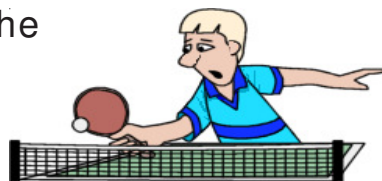
Please contact Judith Ellis on 781057 for further details.

Burton Recreation Trust

At the meeting of the Trustees on 14th January, the subject of vandalism and anti-social use of the Trust's facilities was discussed at some length.

Misuse of the facility is creating a small but constant drain on Trust funds for repairs to the fabric. It was decided that the Trust would authorise the fitting of CCTV cameras so that the culprits can be positively identified and suitable action taken against the perpetrators of any damage.

Bill Whewell
Chairman,
Burton Recreation Trust



Burton Memorial Hall

Burton Memorial Hall has a new hall manager/secretary. Mrs Helen Dawson is to take over from 1st Feb. I would like to thank Sue and Dave Williamson for all their help over the past three years. I would also like to thank Pat and Roy Johnson for their help when I first took over and thank you to everyone on the Committee for their help and support.

Glenis Smith

Christmas Lottery Syndicate

The Syndicate (118 members) "scooped" a win of £3127. Many thanks to those members who insisted on donating a "little something" to Burton Heartwatch and Burton Primary School. These two worthy causes benefitted by £107 each.

**Don't forget to visit the
Burton News Website
<http://www.burtonnews.org.uk>**



Boys Brigade News

*More
Congratulations!*

Table Tennis

Congratulations to the Burton trio of Simon Gregory, Thomas Hacker and Alistair Jones who advanced to the third round of the National Boy's Brigade Table Tennis championships with an outstanding performance when entertaining the First Leyland Company. The visitors were on the defensive from the start with the young trio showing an impressive array of attacking shots in a convincing 8-1 scoreline and now look forward to playing 1st Denton (Manchester) on 6th February.

Community Transport South Lakeland

If you need transport to hospital, doctor, dentist, optician, etc., please contact Mrs. Lynn Herd 01524 781905. If you could spare some time as a volunteer driver you would be most welcome. Enquiries to above or 01539 735598.

Get Well Soon!

To Dave W.
from all your friends in the village.

County Library Van Times

The library van will be in the Memorial Hall car park every Monday between 10.00 - 11.00 a.m. Why not pop along and save yourself a trip to Kendal?

Editorial...

Burton News Works!!

It has been unofficially reported to us that of the villagers who responded to the Parish Survey around 90% of you get your information about what goes on in Burton from BN. Perhaps it is not too much to project that a similar percentage of those who did not respond are also using their BN for information about Burton? That is a heartwarming result from the survey and the BN Committee are truly thankful for the esteem of the readership.

BN works - so use it to announce your event, celebration, thanks etc... Just drop your announcement into the newsagents (before copy date please) and we'll do the rest, free of charge!!

We also welcome other items of interest from our readers. Perhaps you have an amusing or thought-provoking experience you would like to share? Maybe a poetical piece? You may even feel inclined to write a series of articles or short stories? Again, just drop a note into the village newsagents telling us what you would like to do and we'll get in contact.

BN 10th Birthday Competition

The competition is now closed and thank you to all who entered. Judging will take place at the next committee meeting (Feb 10th) with the results posted in the March issue of BN. Winners will be notified immediately after the committee meeting of course!

CHILDLINE

FREEPHONE - 0800 1111

KIDSCAPE 0171 730 3300

Unsustainable??

Reading Roger Bingham's Council Report (page 8-9) Whitehall apparently considers Burton as a community without "sufficient facilities for further development" hence the refusal of planning permission to re-develop the Clawthorpe Hall Hotel site. One has to wonder what other implications there are to being categorized as "unsustainable" - let BN know YOUR views on this apparent stigmatization of Burton!

BJM & AN

BN Website

Back Online!

Those of you with internet access may have noticed that the BN Website has been unavailable for the past couple of weeks. We have been changing providers due to the "going under" of our previous provider and the change over hasn't been as smooth as it could have been! By the time you get this month's BN it will be back up and running again along with our usual e-mail address.

Many apologies for the unavoidable break in service.

BN Webmaster

webmaster@burtonnews.org.uk

<http://www.burtonnews.org.uk>

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END OF THE WORLD

Global Disaster Hits Neddy Hill

In the early hours of Twelfth Night, residents were awakened by a dull thunk, as if a plastic cup had gone adrift in a dishwasher. As this would have meant sorting out the usual havoc, they decided to leave the whole mess till morning, and get on with sleeping. Not long after sunrise, a sad sight met their eyes when they pulled back the curtains. There, on the rockery of a neighbour's garden, the world lay on its side. It glistened and sparkled, its blue oceans showing beneath the rime like a severe case of global cooling. When it was prised from between a couple of stones, a dent was revealed. Had it collided with a large asteroid? Later, this abandoned world began to melt, oozing cold tears that dripped onto the draining board.

A call to Kendal Police made it clear no-one had reported it missing. A strange object to hurl around after an evening's jollity. Was it perhaps a comment on the international situation? It is at present beneath the stairs in our kitchen, and can be claimed in the next month by contacting Burton News. Otherwise it will have to be re-cycled.

A.S.

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If you want more details please see Tim or Elaine in the newsagents.

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01524 732943 for further information.

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OUTDOORS

If you walk up to the top of what we still call the Post Office path, then squeeze through the stile with very old stone jambs and head off south-eastward across the fields, you cross two wooden stiles on your way down towards Dalton Hall home farm. On the downward side of the first one, the limestone gatepost has at its foot what looks like a boulder with a flute or hollow on its face. A chunk from an outcrop on the fell, you think, set on edge so that a solution channel runs vertically instead of level. Looking closely at it as I photographed it in its nest of fern and withered grasses, I saw that it was gritstone and the hollow had to be man-made, it was so smooth and regular.

Why did somebody chisel the stone so beautifully, generations ago? Could it have been part of a hinge system in which a pole carrying a gate swivelled in stone sockets and grooves, with no need of expensive ironwork? We saw a gate of this kind a few months ago near Broughton as we walked through from Stephenson Ground towards Dunnerdale. Most of them will have been replaced long since by the usual metal hinges and the nicely holed and grooved stones discarded or re-used. Now they lurk in crannies of the countryside. If you come across one, and its special features come into focus, it's like stumbling upon a lost work of art, or catching sight of the footprint on Crusoe's beach.



I keep finding things of that kind when I'm doing fieldwork on the Highland Clearances. The summer before last, in southern Skye, beside the track over the hill from Strath to the emptied village of Boreraig on the shore of Loch Eishort, a slim stone a yard long stood upright on the verge. Two days later I learned from Neil MacKinnon, a crab and lobster fisherman, that this was the stone where the Boreraig folk picked up their mail. For years the track had stopped there. In the 1840s the villagers completed the track up the hill from their houses to the mail-stone on the watershed, with well-masoned palisades and culverts. In the early 1850s they were all evicted, their basins of milk poured onto their fires, their thatched roofs burned. As Neil said, 'Their road is beautifully made. It is enough to bring tears to your eyes, that they did not remain to get the good of it.'



This summer, again on Skye, I was looking into the land struggle, the Crofters' War, in which the extremely poor people were fighting their landlords for more ground to cultivate and more hill grazing on which to pasture their animals. On October 14 1877 a flood swept down the glen above Uig, where the Outer Isles ferry now sets off. The graveyard near the shore was washed

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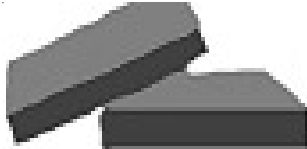
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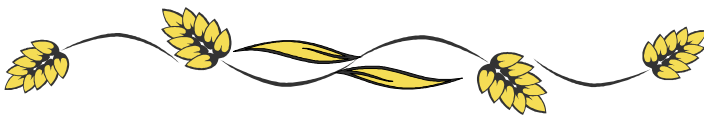
Dora Carrington, IHHT.Dip., ITEC, MAR, NMCSS (Upledger Trained)

away, also the landlord's mansion along with his walled garden. 'The dead body of Captain Fraser's latest evicted crofter was deposited in his dining room,' according to the local correspondent of *The Highlander*. Wondering if there was any trace left of this catastrophe, I walked up the river from the sea, scrutinising each foot of the ground. Two stones lay among shingle and gravel. Surely their straight edges and plane faces couldn't be natural?



Their corners were right-angled - obviously man-made. Each was four inches thick and about one foot square. What were they? Pieces of house or garden wall? Sections of unlettered gravestone (common in the Highlands and Islands)? Fragments of jamb, lintel, flagstone, mantelpiece? Whatever, they were unmistakable evidence of human skill and historical event. No doubt they will still be lying there, more or less unchanged, when the prawns have all been fished out and the ferry no longer plies between Skye and the outer islands.

DAVID CRAIG



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COUNCIL NEWS

From South Lakeland District &
Cumbria County Councillor
R.K Bingham
The Smithy, Ackenthwaite,
Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7DH
Tel: 015395 63694

Christmas is over and I hope that you've done your best to recycle your cards and Christmas Trees - if not your 'unwanted' presents. From a 'green' point of view my publicising SLDC's tree recycling facility at Hayes Garden Centre at Ambleside (where they turn them into mulch) was probably counter productive if one balances the petrol consumption of a 50 mile round trip against the value of one pulped tree! Even so by 15th January last year's tree tonnage of 2.1 tons had already been exceeded. Christmas Cards which can be taken to South Lakeland House (behind Kendal Town Hall) or any W.H. Smith's have done even better - and last year's 4 tons seem to be up by at least 50%. The cards are used for better quality re-cycled paper and although the factory which recycles them is in Kent! I am told that collecting them still makes environmental sense. Locally, recycling reduces the amount of land fill - and land fill charges - which will keep the Council Tax down a bit.



At the beginning of March we are planning a Compost Bin and Water Butt sale which will probably be held on a Saturday in a Kendal supermarket car park. The bins will be £11 and the butts £15. For any further information please ring our Senior Environmental Officer Margaret Blackstone at 01539 733333 ext. 07450. Margaret also has two of last year's 'earth machines' left. I am ashamed to say I'm not sure quite what they are - but they are £12 each.

COUNCIL SWITCHBOARDS
Cumbria 01228 606060 SLDC 01539 733333

On both District and County Councils our main concerns are the budgets which I mentioned last month. At the moment both Councils are challenging, with the help of both Labour and Conservative M.P.'s, the Government's grant. Various delegations have been made to high places - but so far nothing very optimistic has resulted - so watch this space in March. 2003 is the year when we formalise the major planning document called the South Lakeland Local Plan. This will become operative in 2006 and will last for five years. Unlike the last Local Plan which permitted the extension of the Morewood Drive development no major changes are envisaged for Burton or for most of our neighbouring villages. The most controversial plans are for the development at Sandylands in Kendal and for the Burton Road commercial complex near Oxenholme which have brought in hundreds of letters mainly opposed. The main debate will be at the Council on the 21st January (after the Burton News deadline) so for the result please see other media. Burton will be affected by the Government's order that there should be no further development in 'unsustainable' villages.

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To my and the Parish Council's astonishment and horror, Burton is considered by Whitehall to be 'unsustainable'. The term apparently means that we lack sufficient facilities for further development. Whereas most of us would not want more green field sites built on and many of us, regularly, express worries about the impact of new housing on sewerage and traffic congestion some redevelopment of older property and in-fill building might be acceptable. Yet despite my and the Parish Council's support the redevelopment of the former Clawthorpe Hall Hotel site was turned down because it was 'unsustainable'.



The plans included a mix of family houses and smaller, relatively cheaper, properties and as we all know the site is close to a day time, hourly, bus service This is important to metropolitan-based planners who from their Westminster offices at any one time probably can glimpse half a dozen red double deckers and consequently can't envisage rural life and car usage (or over dependence) as we know it. As on so many other issues there are many points of view - so as always, please, let me know.

I have, as Chairman of SLDC, been very busy on public events with lots of marvellous professional and amateur concerts and visits to voluntary organisations all of which do so much for our community. One person's contribution impressed me as much as any bigger group. I attended the book launch of *"From Clogs and Wellies to Shiny Shoes, A Windermere Lad's Memories of South Lakeland"* -1930's to now - by Miles R.M. Bolton. Though, as a local historian myself, I always like to support home industries my main interest lay in the sad fact that Miles suffers from Motor-Neuron Disease and is now unable to move about etc. Even so he has word processed a whole and fascinating book - which must be one of the more optimistic notes of the New Year.

Roger Bingham

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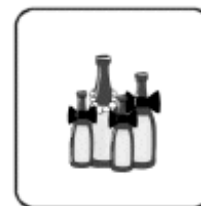
SPOTTED DOG

CHILDREN'S DAY NURSERY

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Burton Post Office



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BASKETBALL

TENNIS

BOWLING

FOOTBALL

CHILDREN'S PARTIES

BURTON RECREATION TRUST

This year has seen a host of new willing faces joining the Trust. Our main aim is to provide a facility for the people of Burton to enjoy as many sporting activities as we are able to offer. The bowling club and tennis club are well established and should both be congratulated on their sporting success. Both these club's committees are working hard to help keep the facility going. We have numerous football teams that regularly use the multi use games area (MUGA), and who appreciate the floodlighting and good changing facilities.



Alternatively, if you would like to use the facility during the daytime, there are fantastic reduced rates – ideal for groups. If you are interested in using the facilities for any of the above (or anything not mentioned even!), please contact us or the clubs involved.

Contacts at the moment are:

Bowling Malcolm Brownsord 781405

Tennis Lynn Riley 781587

Basketball Bob Thornton 781981

Site manager for bookings

Thomasina Boddy 07850 872282

We are currently working on the installation of basketball hoops, which should be up and running soon, thanks to money raised by the Burton Youth Club. As soon as the weather is appropriate, we will be having all the lines and the surface repainted, ready for the next tennis season.

If you would like further details or have other ideas, contact Secretary, Chris or Sarah Jones on 781113, or any of the trust members.

We would like to see the villagers using this facility EVEN MORE. You may have your own ideas, but why not try a children's party (take away food makes it easy and keeps the house clean!), or join one of the clubs? If you are a youngster (or older!) and would like to be able to go up with groups of friends to use the facility, would you be interested in paying an annual subscription which means you can go and book the facility for casual football with your friends?

YOU HELPED TO RAISE MONEY FOR THIS FACILITY – PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ENJOY IT!



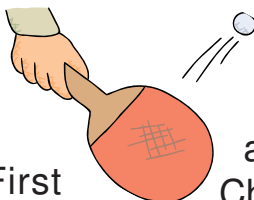
Cumbria
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Burton Table Tennis Club

The Burton Table Tennis Club has had an excellent season so far and has benefitted from an *Awards for All* grant which has meant that we have Five New Tables, Nets, Umpire Tables, Scoring Machines as well as a Training Robot which has kept the members on their toes !!!

All three teams are having excellent seasons with the second team challenging for promotion to the First Division to join their First Team. The coaching of the juniors continues to be a weekly highlight with a good turnout each Friday with numbers close to maximum. A number of these juniors have advanced to the senior league and are "holding their own".

There is an excellent opportunity for any Seniors who wish to come along for a casual 'knock' to join the second session on a Friday in the Memorial Hall which is between 7:30 and 9:00pm. Season ends at Easter.



Come along and try a sport which has the most people playing than any other in the world. So the Chinese tell us !!

For further information please contact Chris Jones on 781113





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An Opinion....

OF ROTTING ROOTS, SEWAGE and WATERCRESS

A Select Report and Commentary on Topics discussed by
Burton Parish Council in the December and January Meetings

The Forum, where members of Burton Parish can put their points to the Parish Council, is being put to use by residents.

Sparks flew at the December meeting, when the owner of Snoozy Beds disputed the request from the PC to remove the sign at the junction on the A6070 near Clawthorpe. *Was the PC victimising her?* she wanted to know. She said she was trying to carry on her business at Holme Mills, which gave employment to eight Burtonians, and the sign was helpful to strangers to the area. Her point was put with strength and some drama. But it isn't easy to do these things for the first time. The poor old PCllrs tried to interrupt but didn't get much of a chance to say anything till she'd left. Her heroic effort deserves some praise. A PCllr then remarked that trucks couldn't reach Holme Mills that way in any case, because of the low bridge, and were forced to reverse into a farm entrance if they tried, causing damage to the driveway. They also pointed out that there is a sign to Holme Mills at the Holme village junction, a better route, in their opinion, to Holme Mills. They are to advise her to apply for Planning Permission to keep her sign.

Since the sign to Dutton Arms has been refused permission, it hardly seems likely she will be successful. (As someone who was often asked the way to this pub, I was grateful for the Dutton Arms sign and personally thought it was in good taste).

Manhole at the Top of Tanpits Lane

A heavier cover is to replace the present one, hopefully keeping it in place during flooding.

The Effluent that Flows into the Beck beside Moss Lane

A filter is to be put in place at the head of the lane. Sounds a bit temporary. And what happens if it clogs up? In any case, will it reduce the stench?

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Flooding on the A6070 at Clawthorpe

The December meeting was chiefly remarkable for the care with which one PCllr covered the question of this running sore. With photos, he followed the drainage from the A6070 through the fields to beyond the motorway, with many a picturesque description of raw sewage, plantation trees dying because of rotting roots, and an outstanding water-cress bed.

At the January PC meeting, the Clerk and the Chairman reported that visits had been made from SLDC officials to try to analyse the problem, and that some action had been promised. This seemed to A.O to consist of improved ditch-digging. It was unclear to A.O exactly which agency was to carry out this work. But does it matter, as long as it gets done and works? The opening words of an official were reported as *"I will continue to maintain...."* Hmm... That doesn't sound too promising, judging by past maintenance.

A Bitter Pill to Swallow

A.O. left before the most thorny question was discussed: Which of the unpalatable choices on offer should the PC advise - either several which involve Council Tax increase options or else a cut in Highway spending. Burtonians who wish to be both irritated and informed should read the Westmorland Gazette, Jan.17th, page 2, on this subject. Last year, it is claimed, Cumbria CC failed to spend £6m. of its Highways capital programme. Surely this would have solved our flooding problem, with £££s left over?!?! It's hardly surprising that allocation of funds to our highways has been curtailed.

As our money finds its way into the pockets of senior council members in the form of pay rises, how galling and ironic it must be for our PCllrs, who receive no remuneration

whatever, that they are asked to "advise" where cuts to the highways budget should be made. A.O is informed that their decision was to opt for no rise in Council Tax, which means a £5.5m. cut in the Highways budget. Funny - that's almost what was underspent last year.

Standing Orders

Involving such serious matters as *"No PCllr should stand up to address the meeting"* and *"Everyone should be silent when the chairman is speaking"*, and so on. To be discussed at the Feb. Meeting. Riveting stuff. But important for the smooth running of affairs.

Citizens' Advice Bureau

After a sympathetic and supportive discussion, it was agreed that a contribution of £50 should be sent to this organization, as it is available for free advice to all residents of the village.

Planning

No new applications this month. An ambitious plan to convert Clawthorpe Hall into residential housing, which had met with approval from the PC last month, was rejected by the planners, as the housing quota for this area has at present been reached.

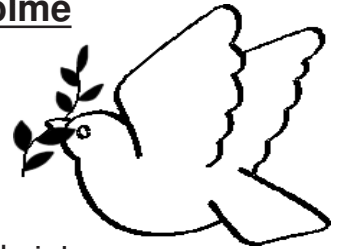
A.S.



"They've had an offer. Some high-up on the Council wants to convert it into his private swimming-pool."

Services at St James' Burton and Holy Trinity Holme

February



February 2nd

9-30 Holy Communion at Burton
11-00 Holy Communion at Holme
6-30 Evening Prayer (BCP) at Burton

February 9th

8-00 BCP Holy Communion at Holme
9-30 Family Service at Burton
11-00 Family Service at Holme
6-30 Evening Prayer (BCP) at Burton

February 16th

8-00 BCP Holy Communion at Burton
9-30 ASB Holy Communion at Burton
11-00 ASB Holy Communion at Holme
6-30 Come and Praise at Burton

February 23rd

9-30 Memorial Hall Service at Burton
9-30 Morning Prayer (BCP) at Burton
11-00 Family Service at Holme
6-30 Holy Communion at Burton

Churchwarden on duty:

George Flanders: Tel 78172



Sidesperson's rota:

2nd Feb Jean Hardwick
& Andrew Hardwick
9th Feb Arthur Prady
& Margaret Prady
16th Feb Judith Ellis
& Alison Flanders
23rd Feb Edward Ellis
& John Long
2nd Mar Cath Johnson
& Hugh Miles

Church Cleaning rota:

2nd Feb Julie Gregory
& Jean Hardwick 6
9th Feb Judith Ellis
& Norah Hayhurst 1
16th Feb Sheila Brownsord
& Margaret Prady 2
23rd Feb Molly Long
& Alison Flanders 3
2nd Mar Barbara Ludlam
& Anne Guy 4

Please change with each other if necessary, but let the duty warden know about sidesduty and readers.

CHURCH TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Vicar:	Paul Baxendale	781391
Wardens:	Michael Carr	781283
	George Flanders	781729
	Tom Johnson	781884
	Tony Morton-Jones	782226
Treasurer:	Cath Johnson	781884
Secretary:	Janis Wood	781241
Organist:	Kath Mills	732194
Choir Leader:	Kath Mills	732194
Reader:	David Mills	732194
	Margaret Coles	782231
	Martin Dew	781645

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The Vicar writes...

Christianity in the Spotlight

In his account of Jesus' life, Mark records the following incident:

Jesus and his disciples are in a boat on the Sea of Galilee when a furious storm blows up. So fierce is the wind that waves break over the boat, which is going to sink. The disciples -some of whom are experienced fishermen- think they are going to die. In their panic they wake Jesus, who is in the stern sleeping on a cushion: "*Teacher, don't you care if we drown?*"

Mark describes what happened next:

It can take days for waves to calm down, but Jesus levels them with a word. "*But that's impossible*" you might be thinking, "*human beings can't do that.*" And you'd be right. And that's precisely Mark's point: Jesus was not just another human being. The startled disciples on the boat realise this and, looking at each other in terror ask: "*Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him?*"

Who is Jesus? That's one of the questions we'll be examining in our upcoming "**Christianity Explored**" course to be held on Wednesday evenings in March and April at Holy Trinity, Holme. Perhaps you're

uncomfortable with the idea of church or put off by religious ceremony. Maybe you've had a bad experience of church in the past. Well, here's an excellent opportunity to find out what the Christian faith is all about in a friendly and informal setting. You don't need to know anything about the Bible. You won't be asked to read out loud or pray. You will be given chance to ask questions.

Why not come along and explore the questions that really matter: Is there any meaning to life? Does God exist? If so, what is He like? Is there life after death? For more details of the course please do contact me on 781391.

Paul

[Ed: Details of the course are also shown on page 22 of this issue of BN]



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HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE
by Roger Bingham

'February fill dyke' - or what?

Along with 'cast not a clout until May is out' 'February fill the dyke with either black or white' is amongst the best known folk lore weather sayings. To our ancestors bound by the rhythms of the farming year an understanding of primitive meteorology was crucial for survival. To plough or sow in the wrong weather conditions could mean the difference between good and bad harvests, fat times and famine.



Two hundred years ago when Burton was the centre of the corn trade for the North West much of the season's prosperity depended on the weather in February. In 1794 one of the earliest agricultural 'improvers' Andrew Pringle praised the farms in our area *'from Milnthorpe to Burton, and from Burton to Farlton to Kirkby Lonsdale, both the farms and inclosures appear to be somewhat larger than in other parts of the county, and it is not quite so rare as to see a few acres of wheat'*.

Though one rhyme asserted *'as good manure is February's rain, as juice that doth from dung hill drain'* muck spreading then as now was a crucial February task.

Many traditions are associated with Candlemas Day - the celebration of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple and The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary on February 2nd.

Thus Pringle stated *'for wheat the land is ploughed soon after Candlemas as the weather will permit, and eighty or a hundred cart-loads of stable-yard dung are laid upon the acre'*. If the land was water-logged or frozen or the weather was going to change for good or bad were essential considerations - hence the need for folk lore rules: *'Candlemas Day, if it be fair Half o' winters to come and mair; Candlemas Day, if it be foul, Half o' winter's given at Yule'* - i.e. over by Christmas.

M.A. Wilson

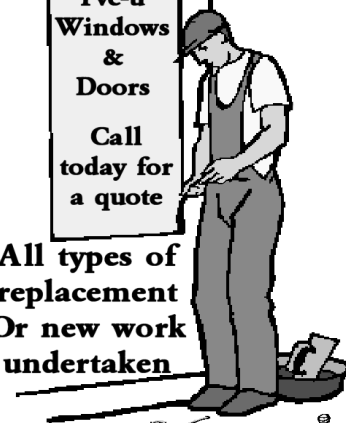
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Other local sayings confirm the belief that good weather at the start of the month was a bad sign. *'If Candlemas Day be fair and bright Winter will have another flight; But if Candlemas Day be clouds and rain Winter is gone and will not come again'*.

In North Westmorland rheumatic people most dreaded a Candlemas east wind: *'If the wind's in the east on Candlemas Day, there it will stay until the second of May'*. Even gloomier is the plaint *'the hind had as lief see His wife on the bier, As that Candlemas Day Should be pleasant and clear'*.

Though the reasons behind the February weather sayings might go back a thousand years most were coined in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Locally the records show that February is a variable month but as older people will recall from the arctic winters of 1947 and 1963 the worst snow and frost can occur. In 1947 the first snow only arrived at the end of January but a fortnight later the world was cut off from Burton for 36 hours because of snow drifts. In 1963 there were 73 days without rain and nine weeks of frost which for a time made our canal a popular skating rink.



A decade earlier several children were drowned when in a mildish February they fell through thin ice on the canal at Carnforth.

Perhaps the most important warning for the month is *'of all the months in the year Curse a fair February'*.

A more cheerful outlook is *'If there is much cold and severe storm during the first two weeks of the month the winter may be expected to die soon after St. Mathias' Day' (24th February)*.



So - with luck Spring might be on the way. Let's hope so!

Roger Bingham

Website News

Looking for Old Friends

The BN website has a page where visitors may leave messages and comments. Two recent visitors to this Guestbook (as it is called) are looking for old friends in the village:

Scott Anderson, who now lives in Scotland, left this message: *"Lived in the Royal Hotel for 2 years with my mum Isabell and dad Scott who ran it and just wondered if it had changed since I left and I wanted to know if anybody knew what all my old friends were up to, e.g Tristain and Adam Lofthouse and other friends who went on to either QES or Dallam who would be in their last year."*

Ian Robinson wrote: *"Lived in the Kings Arms for about 7 years from 1973 to 1980. Looking for friends Michael Jackson and Robert Stringer, both would be 32 yrs of age"*. Ian's e-mail address for contact is: www.irobins@firstunion1.com

For anyone who wants to contact Scott or Ian and who doesn't have e-mail, drop us a line here at BN and we'll be happy to pass on your messages for you.

A.N.

Our Weather

After weeks of wet, with low thick cloud and few blinks of sunshine, we probably all sit round and complain about the weather, and whatever happened to the heatwaves and the crisp blue frosts. I've kept a weather diary since 1990. The rain-gauge in the garden measures rainfall. The weather-vane on the roof tells wind direction. A maximum/minimum thermometer in the porch shows how cold or warm it is over 24 hours. So here are a few figures about Burton's recent weather. They are not scientific! At least they give a fairly realistic picture. The complete record would make dry reading so I have picked out some trends.

Over the last five years the rainfall totals have been (in millimetres): 1367, 1136, 1095, 1156, 1172. What felt like a wet year in 2002 was therefore average, 'saved' by the unusually dry September. What kiboshed us last year was the rain in the summer months: 82 mm in July against 45 the year before, and 149 in August against 106.5 the year before.

The changeability of our climate shows in the December figures since 1990. They range from 39 mm in 1995 to 204 in 1994. January ranges from 30 mm in 2001 to 191 in 1996. In 2000, a dryish year with the lowest rainfall of the past five years, we had a proper cold snap in December: a maximum temperature below freezing all day on the 29th and a record low of minus 7.5 degrees the night before

What nobody can doubt is that winters have become more temperate and much less snowy. The last hefty snowfall occurred in 1982. On a December afternoon, as we were re-whitening the walls and ceiling of the sitting-room, snow as fine as oatmeal began falling onto frozen ground out of a windless sky. The light was just failing. By morning 6 inches lay level everywhere. Before that again, as Gary Crayston has just been telling me, there were such snowfalls in the early Sixties that they were able to build igloos in the fields at the top of the Post Office path and sledge to their heart's content.

Will any of us see such deep, white winters again in our lifetimes?

D.C.



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Bowls

The new season is now only a couple of months away. The Club's committee are keen to ensure we continue last season's progress when we narrowly missed promotion, by turning out throughout the season the strongest teams we can muster. We have a strong nucleus of dedicated players but we need to attract new members, not only to bolster our current squad, but to build an ability to field more than two teams so that we can next season perhaps establish a third or even fourth team. Holme can do it, why not Burton?

Bowling is not an "old mans game" it is a game for all ages and for both sexes. It is a most sociable pastime enjoyed in our village on a first class green in a super setting. Why not give it a go? We intend this season to have a series of tutorial sessions and to expand on the school programme that we have run now for a couple of seasons, indeed funds permitting, we hope to buy several sets of woods for junior use.

Remaining solvent is not easy. Subs do not even cover green maintenance - £1500 per annum. The members have to fund raise two bingo sessions each year plus other lower key efforts. This year we have already planned two open floodlit bowling competitions and hope to attract another County match. There will also be a couple of coffee mornings but most importantly the establishment of a *100 Club*. Please join us and support a village facility which is available to all no matter what age or sex.

Subs are £25 per season which works out at less than 90p per week. Casual use is available at £2 per session.

We have suffered damage from a small number of our youngsters but we hope that CCTV shortly to be installed by the Recreation Trust will see an end particularly to nocturnal forays by some into the porch of our pavilion - hopefully this will deter mindless damage, litter (spirit bottles, cig. packets, chewing gum etc.).

Enquiries about membership can be addressed to me or to any committee member.

MALCOLM BROWNSORD
(CHAIRMAN)



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Broadband for Burton

Update

In the November issue of BN I wrote that there had been 17 pre-registrations with BT for the high-speed internet access service, Broadband, for the Burton exchange. Checking just before BN went to print, the figure now stands at 43. Local MP Tim Collins wrote to BT to ask what the level of demand would need to be for the service to be installed here (the so-called "trigger-level"), and received a most discouraging response full of the costs of providing the service especially in such a small community.

The BT Chief Executive claims that the average cost of upgrading an exchange to provide broadband is £250,000. However, like any average it does not reveal the actual cost of the upgrade to Burton exchange. If the average is reached by adding the cost of upgrading Burton to, say, the cost of upgrading Halifax, and then the total divide by two, the average will be higher, as Halifax exchange is much larger than Burton. Widen the scope to cover the cost of upgrading all BT's exchanges and divide it by the number they have and you can see where the £250,000 figure comes from!

The upshot is that BT have not set trigger levels for small places such as Burton, although they have published on the BT website a list of some 600 places for which trigger levels have been set. Browsing this list it was interesting to see that Carnforth has been set a level of 400 pre-registrations and so far has reached 110. As Carnforth has a population of around 5,600 as opposed to Burton's 1400, it would seem logical to a mere user that the trigger level should be in the same proportion - i.e. about 25% or 100 pre-registrations. (But since when did logic enter into such decisions?!)



However, BT have listed no exchanges with less than 200 on their site, although much publicity has been given to those few smaller exchanges

which have been selected to trial using satellite or wireless links to provide faster internet access. This is one option which BT are considering as an alternative to upgrading the local exchanges, but the cost *to the user* will be significantly greater - in fact well over twice the price! - along with a much higher installation cost. Not good news for areas like ours.

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BT's Chief Exec went on to say that the 1119 exchanges already enabled along with another 900 which are under review serve more than 80% of the UK's homes. This may be the case, but it clearly leaves rural areas such as Burton out on a limb. The bulk of homes are, as we all know, in the conurbations but if you consider the geographical spread of broadband coverage whole tracts of the UK are not provided for. This despite the ongoing - and increasingly (to me) frustrating campaign which BT are waging on local television to persuade us all to sign up for broadband (yes I would do but...!!!).

Meanwhile, the new Broadband4Britain campaign has been taking BT to task over its claims of the high cost of upgrading its exchanges. Recent research done by Broadband4Britain and analysts at Ovum found applications from just 50 people were required to justify the enabling of a local exchange for broadband.

Once again it seems that if we Burton residents want to have this service then we will have to stand up and be counted. Tim Collins is firmly committed to broadband, and is (in his words) "pressing Ministers to ensure universal Broadband provision throughout South Lakeland." Please do consider pre-registering (if you've not already done so) for broadband and help it to become a reality here. It would benefit not only individuals but also the school and small businesses and help to sustain services in the village.

Visit <http://www.bt.com/broadband> to pre-register your interest in broadband internet access.

<http://www.broadband4britain.co.uk/> - The Campaign to get Britain broadband-enabled

A.N.

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BURTON-IN-KENDAL PARISH COUNCIL

The **Parish Council** meets every month on the third Thursday in the month at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall. Members of the public are always welcome to observe the proceedings. At each meeting there will be an opportunity for members of the public to voice their concerns, under agenda item 'Open Forum'. The parish council hopes that parishioners will take advantage of this. Members of the public will continue to be welcomed to observe the proceedings at all meetings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT

THE CLERK - Janet Alderson

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Halifax Life	£100,000 cover	£ 7.18	£10.47	£15.56	£23.71	£36.74
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Keep Your Eyes Peeled for a Cat - a Big Cat!

The recent story of a sighting by a Milnthorpe teenager of what may be a big cat in the vicinity caught my attention and set me wondering if these cats could be for real. Using the power of the Internet I went searching for more information, and found a new website for the British Big Cat Society (<http://www.britishbigcats.com>) which has a wealth of stories of sightings all over the UK - ranging from lynx to leopard and panther to puma - some dating back as far as the 1950's and 60's. During the 1960's police in Surrey recorded over 380 suspected sightings of big cats, other areas such as Wales and Scotland have also recorded many of the same. In fact the BBCS say that they have had reports from every county, which means they are either widespread or widely travelled animals. In 1980 a puma was captured alive near Cannich in Scotland, and a lynx was shot dead on the Norfolk/Suffolk border. In August 2002 the BBCS reported that in the previous three months alone there had been 100 reported sightings, whilst the total for the whole of that year was over 1000. Anyone seeing what they think may be a big cat can report it to BBCS via their website.



In the first week of this year a large puma-like cat was seen to have attacked and killed a whippet in Llangadog, and another reported sighting of two of the same sort of cats near sheep have led the police to be on alert for further attacks. Saliva samples found on the dog are being DNA tested to try and establish what the big cat was, and the results should be available soon.

Certainly the evidence is mounting that there is an unknown number of big cats living free in the UK, and the increase in sightings may either be an indicator of their success in breeding or may just be as a result of more people being prepared to come forward and report them.



Either way where does this leave us? There have been reported sightings in many places in Cumbria - Sizergh, Farleton, Endmoor, Witherslack, Winster, Holme, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Kirkby Lonsdale and Killington are some of them - and more recently at Beetham. Big cats can cover tremendous areas so it may be the same cat or there may be several. Until someone finds the irrefutable evidence of what and where they are we can only wonder. Who knows, maybe you'll see one the next time you drive along the A6070.

A.N.

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Diary & Events

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'The God who Speaks'

talk by: Paul Baxendale

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Burton Memorial Hall

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Competition: A Tea Towel

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20th of Feb for March issue

Open Meeting on Mon 10th Feb

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