



Due to the constraints of the continuing Covid 19 pandemic we are again unable to publish a hard copy of The Houghton Village Echo; so, as a quick stop gap, we have produced this watered down version.

And in the words of Slade's seasonal anthem 'Merry Christmas Everybody':

**"So here it is merry Christmas, everybody's having fun."**

(Well, as much fun as we are allowed to have!)

At some time during the festive period we can be guaranteed one thing at least – some TV station or another will be showing 'It's A Wonderful Life'.

The original script called for James Stewart's character, George Bailey, to be devastated at his mislaying of a critical element of his daughter's tricycle; only to discover them in the closing scenes and exclaim, in a tsunami of emotional relief, "Zuzu's pedals!" – Cue tears all round and roll credits.

However, it was realised as somewhat implausible that tricycle pedals could go unnoticed in a jacket pocket, the script was therefore changed by one letter 'pedals' became 'petals' – and thus was born the enduring legend.

Whatever you're doing this Christmas and New Year, be very careful while you're doing it (irrespective what you're doing and who you're doing it with); and bear in mind the next line of Slade's song:

**"Look to the future now it's only just begun."**

So here's to 2021; let's hope that in 12 months time we can all look back on it and say it was a vintage year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the editors, Hamish & Craig – and may you all find your own versions of Zuzu's petals.

**Unfortunately, many of our readers don't have ready access to the internet, so we would be immensely grateful if, bearing in mind the requirements of Covid safety, you would make an effort to show it to them in some way – perhaps on your laptop, tablet or pc.**

# Linda Kielty's Home Page

For this special Christmas edition I thought I would do a couple of easy no cook recipes that would be suitable for the festive season. The first is a take on the prawn cocktail which I always serve as a starter before the Christmas lunch. I prefer this version both for flavour and presentation. It will comfortably serve 4 people.

## Avocado and Prawn Cocktail

### Ingredients:

250g peeled prawns  
1 small lettuce (iceberg or a little gem is perfect)  
2 hard boiled eggs  
1 very ripe avocado  
2 spring onions  
2tbs mayonnaise  
1tbs soured cream  
Salt and pepper  
1 lemon  
Serving glasses

### Method:

Separate the egg white from the yolk.

Finely chop the white and sieve the yolks (a bit fiddly but improves effect and presentation).

Peel the avocado and mash the flesh (a desert spoonful of lemon juice stops the avocado discolouring).

Stir in the mayonnaise, soured cream and then add the spring onions finely chopped.

Season to taste.

Shred the lettuce and put some into the bottom of each glass.

Add prawns and sprinkle with the egg white and yolk. Cover with the half of the sauce.

Repeat the layers once more and garnish with a slice of lemon.



This next recipe was sent to me a long time ago by my Australian cousin and has to be one of the nicest ice creams I have ever tasted. It is rich and indulgent but surely we all deserve to have a little treat once in a while and especially at Christmas time - so forget the calories!

For those who do not like Christmas pudding this will make a tasty alternative. In fact you could have a scoop with your Christmas pudding. Not that I would do that of course! Down under the name for this chocolate bar is Violet Crumble but it is better known to us as a Crunchie.

## Violet Crumble Ice Cream

### Ingredients:

4 Crunchie bars  
450ml double cream  
150ml single cream  
397g can of condensed milk

### Method:

Chop the Crunchie bars into small bite size chunks.

Whip the double cream but not too thick just until it holds its shape.

Beat the condensed milk and single cream together and stir the mixture into the double cream and add the pieces of Crunchie.

Spoon into a plastic container and freeze over night.

Take it out of the freezer for about 10 minutes before serving, to soften a little and make it easier to scoop.



*Happy Christmas everyone and stay safe.*

*Linda*



# St John's Church Houghton

Vicar: Rev. Andrew Towner

## Thoughts on a Covid Christmas

What's going to be the highlight of Christmas this year? Imagine a conversation in a few years' time: you know, the best thing about COVID Christmas, it was \_\_\_\_\_

It's a hard question for most of us to even think about, because what we're going to miss is so obvious: time with family and friends, celebration meals and parties and gatherings. Of course there are probably things we won't miss – all that driving and perhaps some of those family members? But what will be the best bit?

I think I've got at least three favourite things about Christmas, which will still be great this year: giving, singing, hoping.

Giving is much more fun than getting, and it's something we can enjoy all year. That might be saving up to give, or thinking of ideas to give. And we can still give this year.

Singing has been at the heart of Christmas for me for years, since being a choir-boy enjoying the descants. And it's not just the gorgeous tunes but the great words: "and our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love" and so on.

Hoping is obvious this year – we hope it's different next year! But it's a key part of Christmas for Christians because Christmas points backwards and forward. Backwards to remind us of all the promises God kept when he sent Jesus as a baby; forwards to the one promise left when he returns to judge the world and call his people home into the New Creation with him.

So I shall miss lots this Christmas, and know we all will too. But I expect to enjoy these three things - and even though we're not likely to be able to sing in church, all our Houghton services will be available on **Youtube**, just search **HKchurch** and join in.

Andrew Towner  
Vicar - Houghton & Kingmoor

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# Houghton in Bloom



## Houghton In Bloom Battle Of Britain Commemoration

Houghton In Bloom started in 1999 when Brian Hill and several residents got together to combat the large amount of litter around the village and improve the rather uninspiring Village Green and Village Hall grounds. In the intervening eleven years the group has planted saplings, flower beds and placed planters around the whole village as well as organise community litter picks to improve the appearance of the whole village.

Stanwix Rural Parish Council has supported the group in its efforts with financial grants. H.I.B has participated in the "Love Your Neighbourhood" scheme over the years as a focus for our efforts and welcomed the friendly advice and constructive criticism from Cumbria In Bloom judges.



For 2020 we wanted to commemorate the Battle of Britain and the end of the Second World War in Europe with a floral display.

As the Corona Virus pandemic continued we also wanted to celebrate our wonderful NHS workers with a W.W. II-theme figurine of a nurse seated on the public bench next to the display.



Meeting the challenge of continuing our work under lock during this growing season with social distancing rules in place has been a challenge but individual members have each taken an area of the village and produced some great results.



We have created a new planted area at the village entrance near to the church. This has been possible by the very kind donation of a new wooden planter made by James Pattinson, a local joiner, and also plants that had been donated from Hortech. We hope this will make for a more welcoming village entrance like the one beside Tribune Drive.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and for a better New Year.

**Anyone wishing to join our group will be most welcome, please email: [deborahpark36@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:deborahpark36@yahoo.co.uk)**

# HOUGHTON WILDLIFE VILLAGE PROJECT



Stanwix Rural Parish Council is currently exploring opportunities to work with residents in enabling Houghton to become a Wildlife Friendly Village.

## What is a Wildlife Friendly Village?

**“A Wildlife Friendly Village is a network of wildlife areas maintained and created by residents, on both public and private land to benefit wild life and people”**

The aim of the project is to bring the local community together, to encourage biodiversity, and to protect wildlife, plants and trees.

Several areas have already been identified in and around the village, including areas under trees on the village Green and in and around the play area, among others.

Wild seeds and bulbs could be planted to provide a natural habitat for insects and wild life.

The Play Area could be improved and developed into a Community Leisure Area, with planting and picnic tables for residents to spend family time together.



If you would like to be part of the Management Group of this exciting project or to just learn more about our plans please contact:



**Hamish Phillips**  
**Stanwix Rural Parish Council - Wildlife**  
**Project E: [htcp1@btinternet.com](mailto:htcp1@btinternet.com)**  
**M: 07837 659999**





**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
from  
Houghton Village Hall Management Committee**  
[www.houghtonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.houghtonvillagehall.co.uk)

We hope this finds you all happy and well.

This has been a year like no other. The hall was completely closed during the first lockdown. It was all very strange going from a very busy calendar of bookings with a huge variety of groups and events to nothing. No birthday parties - no fun!

The Farmers market returned on the Green to begin with which was a great success. Now back to their usual indoor stalls every second Saturday of the month. Lovely local produce and crafts do come along and support! Music makers, Baby Sign and sing, Art Venturers and Mums and Toddlers are back which is great.

The hall has had a bit of a transformation this year- a complete 'spruce up'! The Ladies and Gents have been completely refurbished smart 21st century toilets. The hall has been redecorated inside and out with the addition of new curtains. New fridges have been installed. This project was almost entirely grant funded and a list can be seen on our website. Our grateful thanks to all the funders.

The festive cheer from last year arrived again in the form of the hall outdoor lights with a new addition of Santa on his train of presents. Many thanks to Stanwix Rural Parish Council for their grant for this. A special mention goes to Audrey our caretaker for her wonderful Christmas scene in the large hall windows. Well done! We hope it has made a everyone smile!

Looking forward to Christmas and having a better New Year!  
Festive greetings  
Houghton Village Hall Management Committee

### **NUMBERS CLUB WINNERS**

Because the last issue of 'The Echo' wasn't published due to the effects of Covid pandemic there are quite a few to catch up with.

**December 2019 - 105**

**January 2020 - 62**

**February 2020 - 18**

**March 2020 - 27**

**April 2020 - 55**

**May 2020 - 04**

**June 2020 - 106**

**July 2020 - 76**

**August 2020 - 10**

**September 2020 - 86**

**October 2020 - 22**

**November 2020 - 61**



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## Carlisle Centurions FC

**Wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and all the very best for the New Year**

It's been a very unusual year, what with the early curtailment to last season and then all the disruptions to this season, it has been a hard time for the players to adapt to all the new rules etc. But kids are resilient and they have coped with all the changes magnificently and just can't wait to get started playing again.

The club have had to adapt to new ways of training to ensure we meet all the Covid guidelines and along with all other clubs we have been working with Cumberland FA and the Longhorn League to make sure everything is as safe as it can be for the players, both at training and on match days.

Lots of new players have joined the club, a new u7, u8 & u13 teams, have kept us all busy. I have included some photos of 4 of our teams.

As always, we thank our team sponsors, coaches and parents for all their help and support and, of course our players, for without them there would not be a club. We must also not forget all the help we receive from Houghton Primary School with our development squad from Year 1. Hopefully, we will have them starting training very soon.

Hamish Phillips – Club Chair M: 07837 659999



U 7 Team Sponsored by MoynanSmith Accountants



U 8 Team Sponsored by WM Services  
- Construction & Maintenance



U 11 Team Sponsored by Vivax MetroTech



The New U 13 Team sponsored by Corby Hill Motors



## Houghton Village Store and Shop - Meeting the Covid Challenge

All our decisions since Covid started have been based on keeping us, our staff and customers safe. This meant introducing social distancing, and controlling our capacity, this later became known and referred to as Covid secure. Quickly adapting to an ever changing way of trading a free delivery service for groceries and everyday goods was introduced. A popular service that our customers wanted to contribute towards. We decided that any contributions would be donated to the Cumbria Covid-19 appeal of which, with the addition of disposable bag charges we have raised over £610. A fantastic community effort.

For those shielding and still needed to use the Post Office. We arranged to collect any mail or bill payments from a safe place at their homes, ensure these items were safely mailed and bills paid then returned with any relevant paperwork to ensure they could still continue as they wished from the safety of their homes.

Free home delivery remains a permanent service and is open to all our local and surrounding community. Christmas this year may be different in many ways, but you will still find some great deals on everyday groceries selection boxes, Christmas cards and more.

We would also like to thank everyone who has supported us and continue to do so, for people's patience when queuing outside. We will finish as we started by saying all our decisions have been made to keep everyone including ourselves safe. Queuing is not ideal, but our trading approach led to a small coverage on local BBC news back in May and a photograph taken by Stuart Walker which could be seen in Tullie House. A snapshot of time and how we have all adapted.

Best wishes and stay safe and well

Vikki and Craig

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**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from Vikki, Craig and all the staff**

# Clarkey's Quiz



## No More Clarkey's Quiz

It is with the deep sadness that the editors must report the end of Clarkey's Quiz.

This is due to the even greater sadness of having to report that Mike passed away on May 30th, peacefully aged 74, at his home of over 40 years in Jackson Road where he, and his late wife Liz, raised their children John and Shona.

The Echo doesn't do obituaries but in Mike's case a few words are certainly required.

Clarkey, as he was known to many, was a well liked and well respected member of the community and was always willing to help anyone, at any time, with anything.

He served for several years as a Parish Councillor; and as one of our predecessors; co-edited 'The Echo' for over 10 years, to which he also contributed Clarkey's Quiz. He ran the same eponymous inquisition at the Near Boot for an even longer period and always seemed a little disappointed if no one challenged him on at least one answer!

Regrettably this version of 'The Echo' will not reach many of those whom we know have fond memories of Mike; so we hope to be able to include a more detailed appreciation in the next proper issue.

In the meantime join us in raising a glass - "To absent friends!"

Craig and Hamish (Editors)



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# 1st Houghton Rainbows



On the 5th of March the 1st Houghton Rainbows went on a visit to Asda at Kingstown where we were met by the fabulous Queen of Hearts (Niki Iveson). We had an interactive tour of the store, talked about healthy eating and made some characters out of fruit and vegetables. A fun night was had by all, thank you Niki.



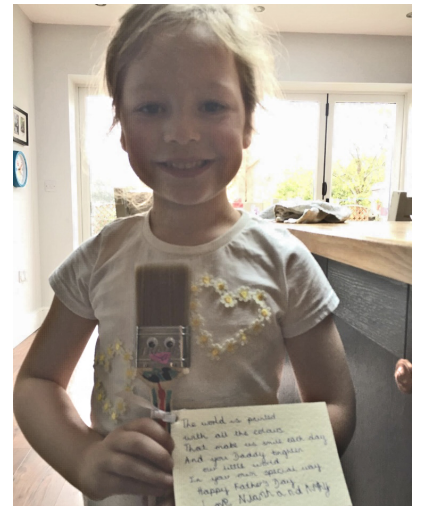
The following week was to be the last time we all met face to face in the Village Hall but we have kept in touch with everyone and very much look forward to our return, as and when it is safe to do so. Since March some of the girls have turned seven and would have been making the exciting move up to Brownies.



The Leaders are sad that we have been unable to 'fly them up' as usual but we will organise a special night with Brownies to ensure they all get their pot of gold badge and a lovely goodbye from us all. We will also welcome our new Rainbows who have had their start delayed.



We have written to the Rainbows and given them crafts and activities to complete at home, including a rather lovely paint brush gift for Father's Day. We have also embraced technology and held meetings with the girls via Zoom.

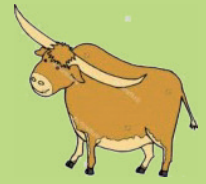


All the Rainbows have received a special 'Spending Time Apart' badge which was produced to raise monies for the NHS and Guiding. It is lovely to see the girls out and about in the village and in Carlisle. They are so resilient, always smiling, and keen to share their news with us.

The Leaders continue to be busy in the background, completing training, attending virtual meetings and planning for our return next year. In the meantime we would like to wish everyone a safe, peaceful Christmas and New Year. For further information about the 1st Houghton Rainbows please contact Sue Doyle (Foxglove) on 07747 568607.



# Susan's Farm



What a challenging year it has been for all of us. The farm, now a registered charity\*, caring for some of the most vulnerable in our community was badly hit. In April, May and June we were unable to have any beneficiaries, or school visits to the farm. Many of those we work with felt very isolated during lockdown and thanks to support from Cumbria Community Foundation and the Prince's Countryside Fund we were able to deliver a hot 2 course organic meal twice a week to them and telephone them on the remaining 5 days a week.

We are fortunate that the farming year and the natural environment has kept our feet on the ground and given us plenty to do! Lambing and calving have gone well, and thousands of local residents have enjoyed walking the footpath across the water meadows to Gosling Sike and back again.

We were delighted to hear that Stanwix Rural Parish Council is to grant aid the purchase of a bench to go in the water meadows; this will be enjoyed by the many bird watchers who enjoy the walk and those who are older to have a little rest on half way through the walk. They have also grant-aided a picnic bench to go in Tarraby Wood, this is wonderful news.

Another bit of good news for the farm is that Susan Aglionby has bought what the older residents of Houghton call "The sports field". This was the sports field for the soldiers stationed on Hadrian's Camp, this field will be farmed in conjunction with the rest of Susan's Farm at Houghton.

The sports field was 22 acres, and is being divided into 5 small fields to allow for better management of the stock, rotational grazing and thereby improve the quality of the pasture and its biodiversity. Eventually, probably next winter, a hedge will be planted beside each fence with trees including fruit trees in it, which will then be double fenced. Runrig the bull together with cows and calves will be returning to Houghton.

All on the farm were thrilled to win the rosette and trophy for the best small herd in the Northern Longhorn breeders competition.

Stay safe, stay well

*Susan*



\*For the newer residents of Houghton.

Susan's Farm is a registered charity working with some of the most vulnerable adults and young people in North Cumbria as well as undertaking educational visits for school children all in the context of an organic beef and sheep farm.

# Book Club



## Adapting and Thriving

The Book Group has adapted well this year, of course we are all missing meeting face to face up at The Near Boot and we aren't sure when that will happen again, but we haven't let it stop us. Straightaway we organised our April meeting over zoom, this went well – it was so lovely to see all the familiar faces and catch up with friends during lockdown.

One thing we have all had this year is more time to read, although we acknowledged at the start of the pandemic that not all of us had the inclination to pick up a book, and took a bit of settling into the new world.

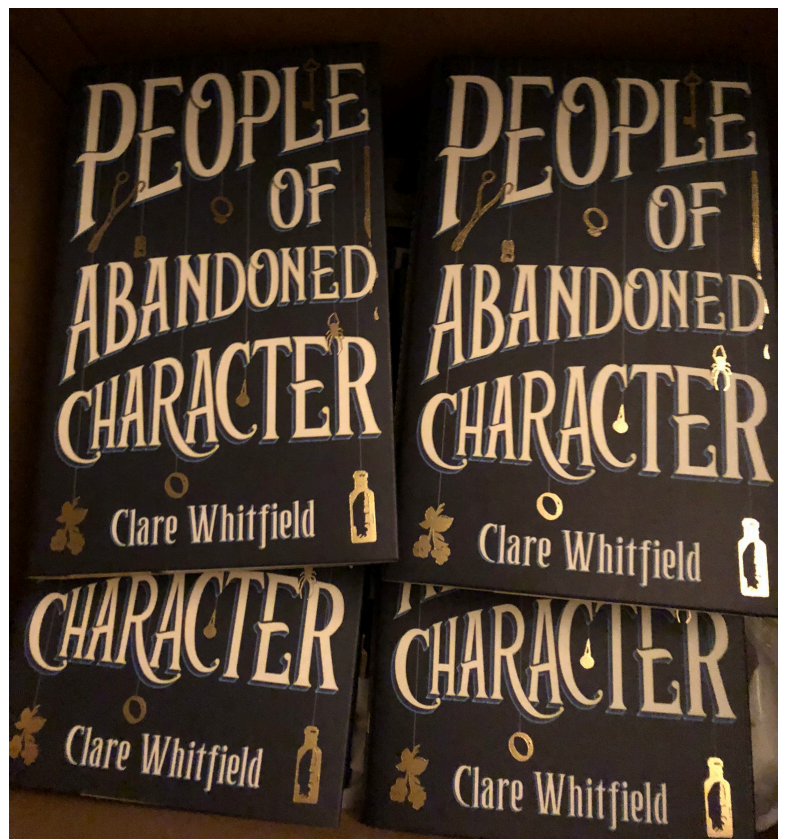
Usually we get a monthly bag of books from the library, this couldn't happen as libraries were closed, however the Cumbria Libraries Service were all set for just such a global pandemic, they have the amazing Borrowbox Service. This is a free app you can download to a phone or tablet, you then get a digital membership by ringing the library (if you don't already have one), enter these details into the app and a whole world of digital books and audio books are available to borrow for 3 weeks at a time. This allowed the group to choose titles to read together and discuss at meetings as well as share recommendations with each other.

Catching up and checking in with each other became a highlight of lockdown and so we decided to have virtual meetings twice a month just so we could look out for each other.

We have still joined in with activities from The Reading Agency online and were lucky enough to win a copy of People Of Abandoned Character by Clare Whitfield each as well as the author joining us at one of our zoom meetings. Having tried to get an author to join us for years this was a real treat one dark November evening. The book itself set in the Ripper's London is a well written, pacey story with unexpected twists and turns, Clare herself was lovely and a great evening was had by all.

By adapting, we have had fun, kept the spirit of the group alive, discovered Borrowbox and even had our first ever author visit, in an unusual year we have found the silver linings and we hope you have too. Merry Christmas.

Becky Underwood



**Cumbria Library Service members can borrow up to 6 eBooks and 6 eAudiobooks at any one time, from a range of fiction, non-fiction, children's and young adult titles for up to 3 weeks - all for free, by using the secure Borrowbox service:**

<http://library.bolindadigital.com/cumbria>



# Cumbria Wildlife Trust - Gosling Sike Farm

## Christmas at Gosling Sike

### Rediscovering Lost Words

Why not visit The Lost Words Garden at Gosling Sike this Christmas? It's a wildlife garden taking its inspiration from 'The Lost Words: A Spell Book' by Robert Macfarlane & Jackie Morris. The book celebrates everyday nature words like 'acorn', 'bluebell', 'kingfisher' and 'wren' - all removed from a widely used children's dictionary, because they're not being used enough by children to merit inclusion. Look out for some of the spell songs which have been incorporated into the garden.

To make your visit really special, you can follow The Lost Words trail, to discover which words can be found living here at Gosling Sike. It's a magical activity and perfect for a wintry day out for all the family.

You can collect copies of The Lost Words Trail from the wooden box on the side of the building. We've also created a new seasonal spotter sheet for kids – It's on page. Even if they've been here before, with the help of this activity children are bound to discover something new in the Gosling Sike Garden at this time of year .



### Record Your Wildlife Sighting

While you're walking round the garden and farm, you can now upload your photos of wildlife sightings to the **iNaturalist App** and they'll appear on a special Gosling Sike project page. **iNaturalist** is a very popular App which helps you identify the plants and animals around you; and having Gosling Sike as a project is a great way for us to build a photographic record of the wildlife that visitors are recording.

To download and use the App you just need a smart phone. Here's the link to our project:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/gosling-sike>

### Have A Crafty Christmas

Sadly we can't run our popular craft events at Gosling Sike at the moment, but if you're looking for inspiration for making Christmas decorations, we may be able to help. On Wednesday 2 December you can join textile artist Helen Walsh for our online workshop. You'll learn how to make unique and beautiful pollinator-inspired hanging decorations, using just scrap fabric, odd buttons and a bit of basic embroidery. It's suitable for beginners and more experienced makers alike. Helen will guide you through the process step by step and offer helpful sewing hints and tips throughout the session. Please book in advance - for details of how to book, go to:

[www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/events](http://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/events)



### Cumbria Wildlife Trust's 2021 Calendar

This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions on movements, the Calendar Photograph Competition's entrants were asked to send in photos that had been taken in their own yards or gardens, or on local walks.

The overall winning photograph, which features on the calendar's front cover, was taken by Rosamund Macfarlane from Loweswater. Second and third prizes went to John Cobham for his wasps photograph and James Underwood for his blue tit chick peeping from its nest box.

# Gosling Sike

## Winter Wildlife Spotter



**Holly**



**Spider Web**



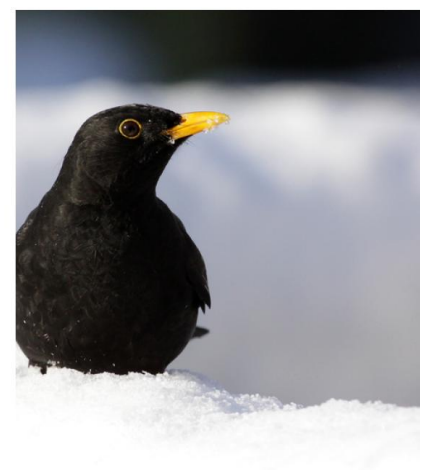
**Robin**



**Hawthorn**



**Ivy**



**Blackbird**



**Lichen**



**Starlings**

**PHOTO CREDITS:**

**HOLLY – P Precey**

**SPIDER WEB – Z Bird**

**ROBIN – G Day**

**HAWTHORN – P Precey**

**IVY – Cumbria Wildlife Trust**

**BLACKBIRD – M Holland**

**LICHEN – T Hibbert**

**STARLINGS – R Burkmarr**



**“And don’t forget to look for me before you light a bonfire anywhere. I might be sleeping in it!”**



# Stanwix Rural Parish Council

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## COUNCIL MEETINGS

These are held on the second Wednesday of each month, except in August, commencing at 19:30.

For up to date information on venues, please see the notices and agendas etc. on Parish Council notice boards and now also on the web site - see below.

The council meeting may be adjourned at the discretion of the chairman, in order to allow members of the public to address the meeting regarding business to be transacted at the meeting.

Electors wishing to bring matters of concern to the councils attention are asked to contact the Parish Clerk or a councillor.

## PARISH CLERK

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Clerk to Stanwix Rural Parish  
Council Hill House  
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Email: [clerk@stanwixrural.co.uk](mailto:clerk@stanwixrural.co.uk)  
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## PARISH COUNCILLORS:

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Tel: 01228 536 895

CLLR. HAMISH PLILLIPS (Vice-Chairman)  
59, Tribune Drive, Houghton, CA3 0LA  
07837 659999

CLLR. TONY COLES  
3, Drawdykes Lane, Houghton, Carlisle CA3 0LT  
Tel: 01228 598 540

CLLR. DAVID MILBURN  
55, Antonine Way, Houghton, Carlisle, CA3 0LG  
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CLLR. MARTIN ELLMORE  
62 Tribune drive Houghton, CA3 0LE  
07824 445 484

CLLR. ALAN LIGHTFOOT  
8, Orchard Lane, Houghton, CA6 0LY  
Tel: 01228 528 645

CLLR. CHRIS SAVORY  
Allendale, Houghton Road, Houghton, Carlisle  
Tel: 01228 231 124

**FOR EMAIL ADDRESSES SEE PARISH COUNCIL  
WEBSITE - ABOVE**

## PARISH COUNCILLORS Cntd:

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CLLR. NEIL WATSON  
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## CARLISLE CITY COUNCILLORS:

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[liz.mallinson@carlisle.gov.uk](mailto:liz.mallinson@carlisle.gov.uk)

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## CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNILLOR:

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365  
[John.Mallinson@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:John.Mallinson@cumbria.gov.uk)

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk receives copies of the applications within the parish area and they are available to view using the link on the Parish Council's website. Comments and opinions should be put into writing (a copy being sent to the Parish Clerk) to:

Planning Services,  
Carlisle City Council,  
Civic Centre,  
Carlisle  
CA3 8QG

## HIGHWAYS ISSUES:

Electors are reminded that complaints and other concerns in respect of highways matters should, in the first instance, be reported via:

**Cumbria Highways Hotline on:  
0300 303 2992**

Answer phone service evenings, weekends and public holidays; cost of calls may vary depending on mobile provider.





# UPDATES

## Meetings

The impact of the Covid pandemic has meant that the Parish Council, like countless other organisations, has had to adapt to holding meetings online. Since May these have been held (not entirely without occasional technical problems) via Zoom.

These meetings are still open to members of the public and login details are provided each month on our website; or you may email the Parish Clerk on [stanwixruralpc@gmail.com](mailto:stanwixruralpc@gmail.com) for details. If you're not online you can still join in via the telephone; to obtain the passcode please give the Clerk a call on **01228 231124** during office hours - Monday to Friday 8.30am to 2.45pm.

## Parish Council Precept

Being acutely aware of the enormous stress placed on many families and individuals, especially at this time of year, by the current level of uncertainty regarding the future, the Parish Council has taken the decision not to increase the Parish Precept for 2021/22.

## Grants

The Parish Council continues to provide grants to local community groups and this year has supported numerous projects including Houghton Village Hall; Houghton in Bloom; 1st Houghton Guides; Susan's Farm (now a registered charity); 1st Houghton Rainbows; Crosby Parish Hall and Linstock WI Hall. The next round of grants will be open to applications in the spring; please keep any eye on our website and Facebook page for further details.

## Houghton Fair and Summer Play Days

The need to cancel both the Houghton Fair and the popular and well supported summer play scheme was hugely disappointing for all concerned. The Parish Council has, however, budgeted to run both events in 2021 and will endeavour to do so – circumstances permitting.

## Brampton Road/Whiteclosegate Traffic

In the summer the Parish Council carried out a survey regarding HGV usage on Brampton Road (the B6264), which resulted in some interesting findings. Work continues with County Highways and our local Ward Members to address the issues raised by the community.

## The Near Boot

Resulting from a Parish Council initiative, that important community hub The Near Boot has now been listed as an Asset of Community Value. While this cannot guarantee its survival as your 'local' it does delay a decision on any future application for change of use, or any other form of redevelopment, by allowing up to 6 months to find a way of keeping it as a pub.

## Millcroft /Whiteclosegate Footpath

An application has also been made by the Parish Council to have the long established footpath between Millcroft and Whiteclosegate registered as a Public Right of Way; registration will confirm the status of this path and protect its continued use.

## Community Speedwatch

The highly successful speed watch scheme is currently on hold during the pandemic. The scheme is extremely successful at deterring speeding motorists and we hope it will return as soon as the situation allows.

## Dog Fouling

This problem always worsens as the winter evenings encroach and anti-social owners use the darkness to avoid their responsibilities. This avoidance can incur a £1000 fine and the law states that being unaware that your dog has fouled, or not having a suitable bag, is not a reasonable excuse. Please remember that not cleaning up after your dog is not only a criminal offence; it can also lead to very serious infections and disease, frequently among children.

## Tribune Drive Play Area

Many thanks are due to Carlisle City Council for its refurbishment of the Tribune Drive play facility. The Parish Council continues to work closely with the City Council regarding the future and ongoing maintenance of this asset.

Finally, it is hoped that Parish Council meetings, business and projects will be able to return to normal during 2021; but in the meantime the Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

**Stay safe – stay well.**

## TRIBUNE DRIVE PLAY AREA

The Parish Council has been collaborating with the City Council to improve the Tribune Drive Play Area. Work this is now completed and the play area has been re-opened.

Following consultation with residents the new equipment, supplied by Kompan Scotland Ltd, includes: flat, cradle and basket swings; a roundabout; a sprung seesaw; and two multi-play units with various play features and slides (one for toddlers and another for children aged up to their mid-teens).

Approximately a third of the total area has been upgraded to rubber 'wet pour' surfacing; the remaining area being surfaced with hardwood chip, which is looser than the bark previously used and allows water to drain through more freely.

All the drainage work discussed has been undertaken by the City Council as part of the scheme and this does seem to have made an improvement to the path, where only a few small puddles remain compared to the previous flood. Although the new drains cannot prevent the accumulation of some standing water during periods of heavy rain, this should now clear from the site much more quickly than before.

Work is now suspended for the winter with the intention of returning in spring to tidy and re-seed the grass areas as required and possibly add some fresh stone to the paths around the play area.



# Contact:

## HOUGHTON ORGANISATIONS, CONTACTS & TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Argentine Tango	Phil Edgar	07887 790 694
Evergreens	Dorothea Sowerby	528734
Bowls	Ken Norman	523518
Brownies	Catherine Adam	548467
Church	The Vicarage	515972
Art Venturers	Pam Weightman	07867 555 153
Music Makers	Helen Teasdale	595111
Flower Guild	Lynda Fraser	670641
Guides	Jackie Dodd	07467 947 001
Mums & Toddlers	Rebecca Sawyers	07703 000 838
Houghton Nursery	Christine Birrell	558888
Magic Circle	Stuart Bowie	01697 472 734
Rainbows	Sue Doyle	511258
Bee Keepers	Emma Keir	01697 352114
W I	Pat Dodd	527711
MooMusic	Caroline Maxwell	07947 833 444
Yoga:	Bonnie Kirkman	07728 338 550
Solway Radio Club	Colin Wolf	07711 161 889

## HOUGHTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman:	Steven Hewitt
Vice Chairman:	Alan Lightfoot
Treasurer:	Anne Nicholson
Acting Minute Secretary:	Audrey Riordan
Booking Secretary:	Gill Hewitt

### Committee:

Gordon Hodgson,	Joan Turney
Doreen Martin,	Joyce Irving
Pat Dodd	

### Hall Caretaker:

Audrey Riordan Tel: 07493 039 596

**Booking Enquiries Please Contact:  
Booking Secretary - Gill Hewitt  
Tel: 01228 658 625**

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