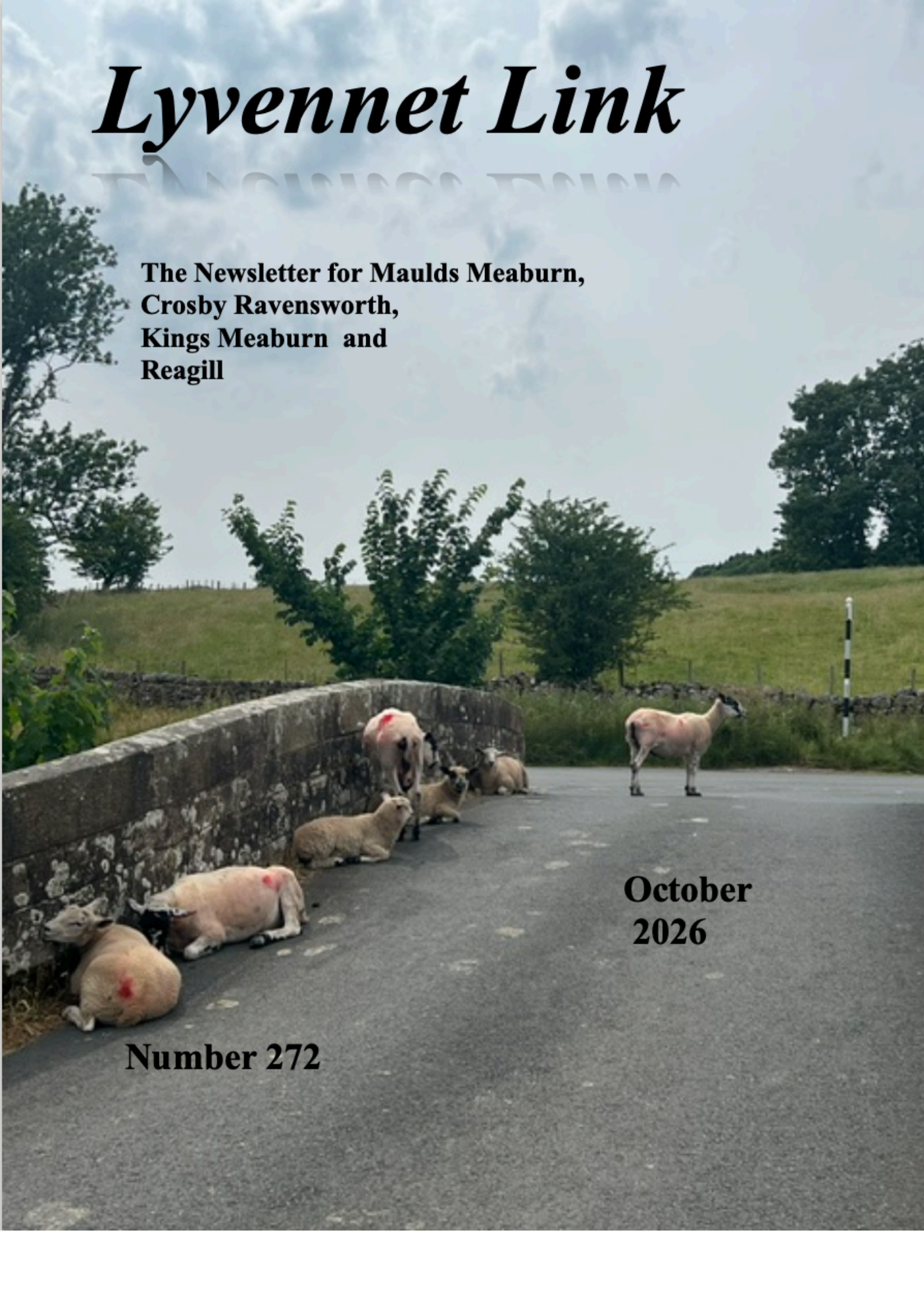


Lyvennet Link

**The Newsletter for Maulds Meaburn,
Crosby Ravensworth,
Kings Meaburn and
Reagill**

**October
2026**

Number 272



LYVENNET LINK

Next Issue - 1st November 2026

Copy deadline 28th October 2026

edited by Nick Thomas e-mail: nickthomas@macace.net

Articles and contributions etc., would be appreciated preferably by e-mail nickthomas@macace.net. Please send items as either text in the body of the email or as a word document. (apple-mac files acceptable)

Please do not send Microsoft publisher documents as I am unable to open them.

Welcome to the October edition of the Link

Parish Council Minutes/Agendas

Minutes of, and agendas for, Parish Council meetings are available at:

www.crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk

Planning applications are available to view on the Yorkshire Dales planning portal here:

<https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/yorkshiredales>

and on Westmorland and Furness Council's portal here:

<https://eforms.eden.gov.uk/fastweb/search.asp>

Please find below a link to the agenda for the next Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council meeting

<https://crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk/agendas/>

The Trustees of Crosby Ravensworth United School Foundation offer a grant to ex pupils of Crosby Ravensworth School.

The following grants are available up to the age of 25 years old

School leavers who are continuing with studies whether going to university, college or an apprenticeship.

To provide financial assistance on leaving university or any other educational establishment to prepare for and to enter a profession

To award bursaries allowances to enable beneficiaries to travel whether in UK or abroad to pursue their education.

To provide financial assistance to enable beneficiaries to study music or other arts.

To apply, please contact Jillian Hewitt, Bankhead Farm, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith Cumbria or email bankheadbeef@gmail.com

Services at your Parish Church of St Lawrence in October

Sunday October 4th 11.00am Morning Prayer with Rob Little, Reader in the C of E

Sunday October 11th 11.00am Holy Communion with Rev Stephen Tudway

Sunday October 18th 6.00pm Evening Prayer with Rev Chris Smith

Sunday October 25th 11.00am HC with Rev Chris Smith

Other events in October/November

October 31st Candle Light 5-8pm: 'A still point in a turning world' [TS Eliot]
please see later 'advert'

Sunday November 8th Remembrance for November 11th , in church at 10. 45am
before moving to the War Memorial
in church grounds for the reading of names of the Fallen, Last Post and Reveille.
Service to continue in church with Bishop James Bell

Your Parish Church of St Lawrence is again glad to be able invite you to **'A still point in a turning world'** **on Saturday October 31st**

The feast of All Saints on November 1st and All Hallows the evening before on October 31st are important markers within the church year, when we remember our precious forebears, relations, family, partners who have died.

As usual, church is open every day til sunset, but we welcome you til **8pm on Saturday October 31st**, and we hope you walk into an entirely candlelit, peaceful, ancient and holy space , where you can sit and contemplate, pray or not pray but be at peace. No one will talk to you unless you ask. You can be anonymous. Please, no phones, no cameras, no noise - this is a silent space: respect. Candles will be lit from 5pm - 8pm.





Harvest Coffee Morning

Saturday 3rd October 10:30am to Midday

Maulds Meaburn Village Institute

Coffee/ Cake : cash donations welcome

Raffle prizes appreciated

Silent auction of fresh produce donated by primary school parents, parish community and Home Grown Here.

All funds raised will go to Upper Eden Food Bank

**Produce is being brought by our Primary School
to their Harvest Service in St Lawrence Church
on**

**Wednesday 30th September at 2:30pm, to which
all are welcome**

A message from June Hill **on behalf of the Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group**

On Saturday 17th October, if you live in an old house in Maulds Meaburn or Kings Meaburn, and you see a group of people, between 2 o'clock and 3.30pm looking at your house, please do not worry!

They will be from the Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group, who will be having a day conference based at MMVI. They will be looking at the houses for historical features only and may well have notebooks, cameras or clip boards with them.

After talks in the morning, then a packed lunch, they will have the choice of which village to walk round, led by one of the group, before returning to MMVI for tea. All viewing will be done from public places - the road or the green.

Please do not invite them inside, as they will have to step out to get round in the time allocated. For further information, see village notice boards..

Thank you,
June Hill,
President, CVBG.

Note to residents from the Parish Council:

The Parish Council is responsible for any garden furniture located on the Village Greens; any furniture on a public space must be added to the Parish Council's asset list for safety inspections and insurance purposes.

The Parish Council would like to kindly request that any residents who would like to donate garden furniture to the community not directly place this onto the Village Greens without contacting the PC beforehand to ensure that all the relevant safety measures are completed.

Many thanks, Crosby Ravensworth PC.

Kind regards,

Naomi Callaghan

--

Crosby Ravensworth Parish Clerk

w | www.crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk

e | clerk@crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk

Please note this is a part time position – emails will be responded to as soon as practicable.

APPLY TO BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR

CROSBY RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL



If you are interested in applying please email:
clerk@crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk

October

— *at* Crosby Ravensworth Village Hall —

Soup & Sweets Lunch

Link ad from CRVH.



This Sunday, 4th October



at Crosby Ravensworth Village Hall



12.00pm – 2.00pm



Adults £10.00 | Children £5.00

Kind Regards

Mary Wood



Come and enjoy a warming autumn lunch at our welcoming village hall.

A delicious range of tasty soups and tempting puds will be on offer.

Followed by a raffle.

All proceeds to CRVH funds.

FILM NIGHT

Song Sung Blue

12A

Song Sung Blue – a real-life Milwaukee couple who form a popular Neil Diamond tribute band called *Lightning & Thunder*.

Friday 16th October

at Crosby Ravensworth Village Hall



Film Night
(12A)



Food at 7pm,
film at 8pm



Food – chilli/
sweet & sour
(veggie option available)



Price – film & supper **£12**,
film only **£6**

Booking is essential for all film nights



To book any tickets ring

07584 251352,



email lynn-barnes@outlook.com,



or message our page.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

ON SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER

AT CROSBY RAVENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL

6PM–8PM

PRIZES FOR THE
BEST CARVED PUMPKIN

PRIZES FOR THE
BEST COSTUMES
FOR ADULTS AND KIDS

PARTY GAMES

DISCO

REFRESHMENTS

RAFFLE

RAFFLE

CASH BAR

£3 PER
PERSON

£10 FOR A
FAMILY OF 4

ENTERTAINMENT BY
STARDUST PARTIES

All proceeds from all events to CRVH funds.



It's Happening Soon!

Another Bloody Great Quiz!

Friday 9th October at 7pm

CRVH

**Raising funds for the PSP Association in
memory of Hilary Woodward**

**Entry £15 per person includes a 'soups
and puds'supper and £5 of raffle tickets**

Food, Bar, Quiz, Raffle and more.

Teams of 2-6

**To enter contact Drew by
Whatsapp on 07803-291847**



MAULDS
MEABURN
VILLAGE
INSTITUTE



**Coffee
mornings**

Wednesdays : 7 Oct, 4 Nov, 2 Dec
10.30am to 12. All welcome!

Live music
Sat 17 Oct

Tom Corda-Stanley and
Mrs Knox & GTB from
Eden Valley Touring
Network play from
7.30pm. Doors and bar
open 7pm. Just £8!
[wegottickets/f/29054](https://www.wegotickets/f/29054)

**Royal Northern
Sinfonia Fri 23 Oct**

RNS Woodwind quintet play Barber,
Janacek and Nielsen. Tickets £15 from
www.highlightsnorth.co.uk or on the
door. £10 under 25s/those on benefits.
Doors and bar open 6.30pm.

***Breathe, flow &
restore***
Sun 25 Oct

Yoga and sound immersion
with Shelley and Jess
2pm-5pm. Numbers limited,
book at bookwhen.com/lyssna

Our annual Craft Fair Sat 7 Nov

Free entry! New stalls and familiar favourites, light
refreshments and raffle. 10.30am to 3.30pm

People's Emergency Briefing

A film of UK experts presenting on the climate
crisis. Thurs 12 Nov 7pm. FREE

More info at www.mmvi.org



Website Update Person

The MMVI web site is already built (the platform is wix) and is very good, now we need someone to keep it updated.

The role is to:

- Update the website with new event posters and text
- Remove past event posters
- Ensure the links on the site are working
- Work with the Trustees and others to get information out
- Attend Team meetings, approx every 6 weeks.

Training and ongoing advice are available from the webmaster who has been running the site. The role should take about 15-30 mins a week. Contact Pete Button if interested, mmvichair@gmail.com

People's Emergency Briefing

There's a poster in this Link for our FREE showing of this recent film about the climate crisis at MMVI on **Thur 12 Nov at 7pm**.

There will be a discussion following the film. MMVI is on the path to net zero, and Crosby Ravensworth school is this year focusing on climate issues in the curriculum and is developing its own climate crisis policy. Do come and join us for a thought-provoking evening – especially if you have children or grandchildren at CR school.



Maulds Meaburn Village Institute

Saturday 17th October

Doors 7.00pm

Featuring
Tom Stanley
and
Mrs Knox and The Good Time Boys

Admission £8.00

Or book online





ROYAL NORTHERN SINFONIA OUT & ABOUT

Royal Northern Sinfonia call The Glasshouse home, but the music doesn't stop there. Bringing a small group of woodwind musicians to rural venues, this exquisite programme will include:

Barber Summer Music (11'), Janeck Mladi (17') and Nielsen Wind Quintet (23')

Maulds Meaburn Village Institute CA10 3HN

Fri 23 October 7:00pm

Tickets: £15 / Under 25s £10

Phone 07383 391466

book online **www.highlightsnorth.co.uk**



highlights
rural touring scheme



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



**Westmorland
& Furness
Council**



MAULDS MEABURN
VILLAGE INSTITUTE



Breathe *flow &* restore

A day designed entirely for you



BREATHWORK



GENTLE YOGA



REFRESHMENTS



SOOTHING
SOUND
IMMERSION

Sunday 2 - 5 pm

25 OCTOBER

@solitude with Shelley

@Lyssna sound immersion

BOOKING DETAILS

[HTTPS://BOOKWHEN.COM/LYSSNA](https://bookwhen.com/lyssna)



MAULDS MEABURN
VILLAGE INSTITUTE

CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

10.30AM TO 3.30PM

- Quality Local Crafts and Goods
- Light Refreshments for sale
- Raffle
- **FREE ENTRY!**



MMVI
MAULDS MEABURN, PENRITH
CA10 3HN

People's Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

Maulds Meaburn Village Institute

12th November at 7.00pm

**Come along watch the film
and join the discussion (film 1hr)**

FREE ENTRY
Bar open, along with tea or coffee

16

The jigsaw of menopause

Three menopause experts,
one room – come and join us!



Maulds Meaburn Village Institute



Thursday 19 November, 7pm



£10 tea/coffee included.
Doors open 6.30pm

All are
really
welcome

Whether menopause is on the horizon, you're in the thick of it, or you're still noticing effects of your cycle post-menopause, this is an evening of information sharing, listening and supportive chat, with plenty of time to ask questions. Do bring a friend or partner – or both!



**Dr Venetia
Young**

A retired local GP with years of expertise in all aspects of menopause, Venetia will demo breath techniques to alleviate symptoms of menopause and other conditions, such as anxiety, panic attacks, insomnia and heart arrhythmia.



**Tish
Fisher**

Tish is a holistic menopause specialist who set up **Menopause Body & Mind** to support women 1:1 dealing with menopause effects. She runs a free menopause group in Carlisle as well as Facebook support.



**Anne
Stowers**

Anne is an Eden Valley menopause coach who is keen that information on nutrition and exercise is accurate and evidence based, for successful transition through the ebbs and flows of menopause.

Book your place via Weggottickets:

<https://wegottickets.com/f/27695>

or scan the QR code





*"Badapple Theatre triumphs
in a tour that takes the
magic of theatre to
remote venues"*
The Stage

SANTA'S CHRISTMAS CAKES

Rascal the Elf is left behind on Christmas Eve and put in charge of Santa's kitchen, where her mischievous antics spark a whirlwind of festive chaos. With comedy, songs, puppetry and some delightfully silly cookery, this joyful, family-friendly Christmas show will delight audiences of all ages.

Maulds Meaburn Village Institute CA10 3HN
Sun 6 December 3:00pm

Tickets: Adult £10 / Under 16s £5 / Family £25
Phone 07383 391466

book online **www.highlightsnorth.co.uk**



highlights
rural touring scheme



Supported by public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



**Westmorland
& Furness
Council**



The Benches of the Parish

This month we remain on the back lane of MM for our '*Bench of the Month*', but this one is down by the river, by the bridge just downstream of the weir.



And as mentioned last month, the three benches on this side of the river are identical in style, make and age (their age would now appear to be in the realms of '*getting on a bit*').

This particular bench is very well located and as you will (just) see from the photo above (sat on the bridge), you will have a very good chance of spotting one of the herons that frequent the river hereabouts.

Sat on this bench, down by the river, watching the herons, away from either road, away from any children playing in the fish pass, away from that dangerous drop and deep water of the bench above the weir and

the excessive vegetation - what is there not to like about taking a few minutes out to enjoy this spot?



You would be unlucky if someone walked by to disturb your peace, trying to engage you in some meaningless conversation about the weather or some other boring subject – just sit quietly with your own thoughts and the gentle murmur of the river to keep you company and here you will most definitely be able '*To do a Davies*'.

The bench itself is a metal/wood hybrid, old and with a few swirls in the metal work to give it a little bit of character.

However, and like the other two benches on this side of the river, it is showing its age, but is bearing up reasonably well, although a little TLC wouldn't go amiss.

Now, crucially, it is also more comfortable than the other two benches – but that isn't to say that it is the most comfortable of benches that you will find, but it is better.

It still has just the two slats of wood for the back when really it should have been three or, if just the two, they needed to be wider, especially the bottom one.

All six pieces of wood on the bench have straight sides and haven't been rounded off, but the four slats on which you park your rear are all evenly spaced – unlike the other two.

So with this bench the need for a slightly larger posterior to increase your comfort is not required!

Also this bench does not suffer from vegetation growing up, through and around it like the one above the weir, although the banks of the river are well covered in nettles and vegetation which slightly spoils the view.

However, and in spite of the nettles, the view out over the river and green is more than decent.

Looking south and with no shading from trees, etc, this bench will enjoy plenty of sunshine through the day.

The View from the Bench.



The Bench That Held a Thousand Stories – by Rian Khan from Bangladesh

“It was an ordinary evening when I first noticed the old wooden bench by the river.

At first glance, it looked like nothing — just another piece of weathered furniture left behind by time.

But there was something about it that pulled me in, as though it had been waiting for me all along.

I sat down, and the world seemed quieter.

The sound of rushing water mixed with the gentle rustle of leaves, and for the first time in a long while, I didn’t feel the need to scroll through my phone or escape somewhere else.

A little boy walked by with his mother, laughing as he chased a paper boat downstream.

An old man came later, feeding crumbs to a flock of pigeons.

A young couple stopped, arguing softly at first, then holding hands again, their silence heavier than their words.

I realised the bench wasn’t just wood and nails.

It was a witness — a keeper of countless small stories that no one else bothered to notice.

“The bench waits for the next soul who needs it.”

As I sat there, I wondered how many people had leaned on this bench to carry the weight of their loneliness, their joy, and their confusion.

And in that thought, something shifted inside me.

I wasn’t just a person sitting alone by the river — I was part of a larger story, one that connected me to strangers I would never meet.

That evening, I got up and walked away with lighter steps.

The world still felt heavy, but I carried with me the quiet knowledge that I was not truly alone.

The bench would always be there, waiting for the next soul who needed it.”

NEWS FROM CROSBY RAVENSWORTH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

The children have returned from their summer holidays to the start of the new school year and what a start it was.....getting to meet a member of the Royal family. As you will have heard, HRH the Duchess of Edinburgh recently visited Crosby Ravensworth as part of her two day visit to Cumbria highlighting community led food production, local enterprise and the importance of keeping food supply chains rooted in rural areas. The children were waiting to meet her as she came out of the pub with chef Jon, having prepared a healthy salad for lunch, using locally grown produce. The Duchess was keen to know what the children grew in their gardens at home; what their favourite lessons were and what they liked about where they lived. The children were not at all shy to tell the Duchess their thoughts.

We are also pleased to announce that School has joined the 'Let's Go Zero' campaign. With the help of a climate action advisor, we are taking every effort to reduce our environmental impact, our ambition being to become a zero carbon school by 2030.

At the end of September, the Robins had a trip to visit the Salvation Army in Penrith to learn more about the good work they do in the local community. We also had our harvest service at St Lawrence's Church.

Our next 'Pop in and Play' is on Monday 12th October. All children currently not in school or pre-school, from birth up to 5 years are welcome to join us from 9.30am until 10.30am for fun and games. Please phone on 01931 715265 to let us know if you'd like to come. Parents must accompany children. Please do pass on the message to anyone who you think might also like to know. This session gives you the opportunity to visit our fantastic school and meet the staff and pupils, whilst taking advantage of our terrific early years provision and your little ones can enjoy fun filled activities. Can't make it.....don't worry there is another 'Pop in and Play' on 14th December.

Until next month.....

Tea Break Quiz

- 1) In the song 'A Windmill in Old Amsterdam' what creature is doing what and where and what are they wearing? Can you name the singer as well?
- 2) Snooker – the world championship is played at The Crucible in Sheffield – name the year of the first tournament there, the winner then and the current world champion.
- 3) Which famous Yorkshire railway station became 'Hogsmead' in the first Harry Potter film?
- 4) The formula $A = \pi r^2$ is used to calculate what? (π being pi)
- 5) 'Poohsticks' – was devised by which author? He first played it at Posingford which is in what county?
- 6) Name the four albums by Adele.
- 7) Name the six 'Chasers' that appear on the TV game show 'The Chase'
- 8) Inside the bus shelter at Maulds Meaburn on the back wall is a wooden bench, engraved into the bench are two initials and a year – what are they? They are directly facing you as you stand at the gate looking in.
- 9) What are the next lines to this song, through to the next chorus and name the year that the film was released:
*"Look for the bare necessities, the simple bare necessities, forget about your worries and your strife
 I mean the bare necessities, old mother nature's recipes, that bring the bare necessities of life ... ?"*
- 10) Totalised – see below

Medium

71	Double it	-2	$\div 7$	-7	Double it	-10	$\frac{1}{4}$ of this	Halve it	$\times 4$	=	?
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Medium

38	Halve it	$\times 5$	$\times 2$	Double it	+ 1	One third of this	+ 6	$\div 7$	Double it	=	?
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Harder

50	$\times 2$	+ 5	- 6	$\div 9$	Multiply it by itself	+ 2	$\div 3$	- 2	One third of this	=	?
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We are no longer running the 'Bus stop' collections from your village on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, so please don't leave any donations there.

The GREAT news is we have now employed a driver that lives very close to you. This means we can collect your donations for us ANYTIME you wish. You no longer have to wait until the Bus Stop run!

Just contact us to make your collection appointment.

Complete an online form -

<https://www.greatnorthairambulance.co.uk/support-us/fundraising/recycle/clothing-collections/>

Or call us on 01325 308139 to arrange a collection. We love to accept any clean clothing, coats, belts, shoes (in pairs) and handbags.

Unfortunately we're UNABLE to collect any household textiles such as towels, bedding, curtains and table cloths and books/bric a brac as these cost the charity to be taken away which isn't great for our funds.

We employ all of our drivers and own all of our vans so you know that ALL of your donation come to us direct. We receive no Government grants, we totally depend on your donations to keep saving lives in your area.

We haven't put bags out door to door for a year now in order to save plastic waste.

All of our donations are by pre-arranged collection only.

Thank you for your donations in advance!

FELLRUNNER EXCURSIONS 2026

For the people living primarily in the North Westmorland Group of Parishes and surrounding areas, The Fellrunner Village Bus Company have again very kindly offered to provide a 16 seater bus for our community use this year. A list of the proposed trips is given below and if you would like to make a booking, please contact Mike Roulson on 01931 714457 to enquire if seats are available. Please note that for some visits there will be entrance charges payable in addition to the bus fare. **Please do book early to avoid disappointment.**

7th March....Bygone Times, A unique shopping experience on 5 floors at Grove Mill, Eccleston, Chorley. Antiques and collectibles centre, memorabilia from yesteryear, Lancashire's finest historic shopping destination. A place to visit and step back in time.

11th April....Southport, a trip to the seaside resort with England's second longest pier. Lord Street is renowned for its high street shops or take a walk around the marine lake and gardens.

9th May....Levens Hall nr Kendal. Take a tour of the privately owned Elizabethan house with its intriguing history and the world's oldest topiary gardens which are truly magnificent.

6th June....Harlow Carr near Harrogate. Enjoy a day out at the beautiful famous gardens managed by the Royal Horticultural Society. A delight in every season. Take some refreshments in the famous Bettys Cafe Tea Rooms overlooking the beautiful grounds of the gardens

4th July....Raby Castle, Park and Gardens, Staindrop nr. Darlington. One of England's finest medieval castles. Enjoy a castle tour and a walk around the gardens. Coffee stop en route in Barnard Castle

1st August....Beamish, The Living Museum of the North. So much to see, telling the story of life in North East England from the 1820's to the 1960's. This visit will be a longer day due to the size of the site. Vintage buses and trams operate to transport visitors around the area.

5th September... Albert Dock complex, Liverpool. Another visit to this world famous iconic waterfront attraction. Visit the free Museum of Liverpool at the Pier Head or have a sail on the river Mersey on the famous ferry. Other renowned attractions, shops and museums in Liverpool city are just a taxi ride away.

10th October....A visit to Skipton officially named the happiest place to live in the UK with its well known street market, the castle, and the beautiful Holy Trinity church or a walk down to the canal perhaps to see the attractive narrow boats.

7th November...(TBC)....Holker Hall Winter Market. This visit will be weather dependant. An alternative venue will be visited if necessary in the event of a bad weather forecast.

5th December....An afternoon visit to Barton Grange for some Christmas shopping followed by an evening trip through the famous Blackpool Illuminations. We will leave Morland late morning and return mid evening.

Jack was more apprehensive than suspicious. He did not want to get involved. It had been a long, draining day and he was thankful to have caught the last train out of Charing Cross to Tonbridge. He just wanted to go to his car and drive home.

It was clear the woman was in some distress, though. Standing alone near the exit at the end of Platform Two she looked bewildered. If she was expecting another train, she was in for a long wait now. If she was soliciting money or custom, Jack would be her last hope.

Buttoning his business suit against the night air, he decided to give her a wide berth. He crossed behind the closed buffet and the toilet blocks and walked out along Platform One, hoping to slip by unseen.

The two or three other passengers who had got off the train quicker than Jack, encumbered as he was with his brief case and lap top, had slipped away into the sleeping town. There was no such escape for him.

The woman heard his footsteps ringing on the empty platform, hesitated only an instant and accosted him.

“I don’t suppose you are going to the car park by any chance?”

She was a well spoken, middle-aged woman, dispelling Jack’s fears that she might be a hooker or a weirdo. He slowed his step but did not reply at once. Something about her was odd. She was walking alongside him now, taking small, quick steps in her sensible shoes. “Only, I wonder, would you mind accompanying me to my car? I know it sounds silly, but it’s such an out of the way place and you hear so much...”

Jack relented and looked at the woman. She was the same age as his wife. He would have hoped that in similar circumstances another man would have been kind enough to come to her assistance, though he could not imagine his own wife ever being reduced to such a state of nerves as this poor woman.

“Of course,” he said. “Where is your car?”

“I left it in the station car park this morning. I never dreamed I would be back so late. It’s the tunnel I hate.”

The direct route from the station to the car park led off the end of the platform into the dirty mouth of a winding subway under the main road. It was foul smelling and dank at the best of times. The walls stank of urine and fear, thick puddles made the ground sticky.

“I’m going the same way,” said Jack. “I’d be glad of your company.”

“You’re so kind. I don’t know what I should have done.” The normal exit was closed, a big steel door barring their way. “Oh, they do that at night,” the woman said. “So irritating. We have to go this way, if I remember right.”

Jack was reluctant to follow her into the unlit superstructure but the alternative was a long trek over the bridge and down a side street to a footbridge back over the track.

“You’ve done this before, then?” he remarked.

“Yes, last month. Fortunately my husband was with me then.”

“I didn’t see you on the train.”

The woman said nothing for a while. They located a cast iron staircase, clattered down the spiral and found themselves in the subterranean passageway. “You

will think me very stupid,” she said, “I was not on your train. I came in half an hour ago.”

“And you’ve been standing there all that time?”

“I could not quite bring myself...” She began to sob and opened her handbag for a handkerchief.

“You are all right now,” Jack reassured her. For all her homely looks there was something uncanny about the woman. Something not quite right.

“You are a gentleman,” she sniffed into a tiny square of cotton.

“Not any more,” he replied. “No call for it.” They were in the long, straight stretch of the brick vault that went under the road. “When I first travelled up to town I would automatically give my seat up for a woman on the train. Of course there were not so many of them then.”

“Those were the days.”

“But the trains became more crowded, you see, and the number of career women increased. I learned to stay put, but I felt guilty about it. These days a male, gentleman or not, is made to feel guilty if he does offer his seat to a woman, even if she is seven months pregnant. I’ve had all that nonsense well and truly drummed out of me.”

“Young women are tougher, these days, I grant you. But then we are all still vulnerable in certain situations.”

“So are men,” acknowledged Jack, voicing a dormant doubt.

“Well, it’s all the more gallant of you to help me out. You’d be surprised how many people walk past.”

Jack wondered how she would know this. “Yes, chivalry is dead,” he said, “and no wonder.”

They emerged into the fresh air of the night. He saw his own car dully reflecting the orange light from the peripheral street lamps.

“Where’s your car?” he asked.

She pointed to a dark corner by the entry kiosk.

“So you’ll be all right now?” he asked brutally. The woman froze. “Well, I hope so.” She did not leave his side.

Jack regretted his discourtesy, took the frightened woman’s arm and said, “Come on, I’ll see you right over to your car door.”

She relaxed again. “I can’t thank you enough. You must think me very cowardly.”

“No, it’s understandable. You’ve parked in rather a murky corner, haven’t you?” Her car stood against a scruffy hedge that separated the parking lot from a track leading alongside the railway line. In the dark the woman kicked a discarded beer can. The sudden, skittering explosion of noise startled them both and they laughed.

“You’ve given me the jitters now,” said Jack.

As the woman fumbled for her keys, two figures emerged from the shadows. Before he had time to react, Jack felt a hot pain in his stomach and fell to the ground. Strong hands lifted him, went through his pockets and dropped him back to the ground like an empty sack. “Chivalry is dead,” chuckled the woman, picking his lap top from the ground. There was no regret in her voice at all. One of her accomplices started the car.

Answers

- 1) A mouse ... there on the stair ... with clogs on ... going clip, clippety clop on the stair -
Ronnie Hilton
- 2) 1977 -- John Spencer -- Wu Yize
- 3) Goathland (Heartbeats 'Aidensfield')
4) The area of a circle
- 5) A.A. Milne -- East Sussex
- 6) They are all numbers: 19 -- 21 -- 25 -- 30
- 7) Mark Labbett -- Shaun Wallace -- Anne Hegerty -- Paul Sinha -- Jenny Ryan --
Darragh Ennis
- 8) JW – 1974 - **



- 9) *Wherever I wander, wherever I roam, I couldn't be fonder of my big home
The bees are buzzin' in the tree to make some honey just for me
When you look under the rocks and plants and take a glance at the fancy ants, then
maybe try a few, the bare necessities of life will come to you
They'll come to you! Released in 1967
Now hopefully the tune will be in your head for the rest of the day!!!!*
- 10) Top = 8 Middle = 38 Bottom = 13

**this could be a naughty question on my part as maybe at some point the author of '*Benches of the Parish*' might make reference to this – and whilst I am now long retired, I've also noticed that '*Benches of the Parish*' could be abbreviated to '*BoTP*' which in police and legal terms was used as an abbreviation for '*Breach of the Peace*'!!!!!!