

BAMPTON PARISH NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023 – JANUARY 2024



Hello,

It doesn't feel terribly strange writing, in mid-November, an article which you will probably read when Christmas is close at hand. We are used to Christmas starting early. In 2021, the online retailer *Very* drew ridicule, for starting its unashamedly Christmassy ad campaign on 1st October. The advertising industry was rather scathing for a week or two, after *Very* received a 30% negative response in audience research. As October progressed, however, it seemed that *Very* had the last laugh. Sales figures suggested that Christmas shopping had indeed started early and all the big Christmas ads were hastily brought forward earlier than usual: John Lewis released theirs on 4th November. The indications were that people were fearful of getting caught out by supply chain problems, and were stocking up for a special Christmas, and for family reunions, after the disruptions of 2020. But does early advertising drive the shopping, or does the shopping drive the early advertising? There is a complex relationship between the two: Christmas advertising is often chasing a share of demand that already exists, rather than creating more.

In modern Britain, many people are planning to celebrate a festival in which they do not believe. Or, perhaps, they are setting up a festival which they do not quite know what to do with. The front-loading speaks of its importance, of anticipation: but many people take down the decorations very quickly. Does the festival have enough content to endure long after the day itself? Is the pleasure all in the

anticipation? Does the hoped-for magic come to a swift end amid overeating; presents that were not as useful or durable or fun as we hoped; and occasional disputes with visitors whom we wish had gone home sooner? Churches have become completely complicit in this. In the church calendar, it is Advent until darkness falls on 24th December. Advent is not a countdown to Christmas. It is a season for contemplating the last things: death, judgment and the afterlife. And yet in church, as elsewhere, Advent is filled with Christmas and with carol services. I have only ever known one parish have a Christmas service, apart from Sunday, during Christmas itself: take a bow Woodland, in south west Cumbria, with your community carols and mince pies, on the Feast of St Stephen (26th December)!

As a child, I was taken to our local church on Christmas Eve one year – which was unusual in our non-churchgoing household. On the wall behind the altar was displayed the acclamation, “*Glory to God in the Highest!*” in individual letters. The final letter E appeared to have slipped down the wall, leaving the message, “*Glory to God in the High St*”. It had everyone talking before the service. Was it an ironic but amusing accident? Of course, it was the vicar’s doing, and was the prelude to a sermon about the commercialisation of Christmas. Without revisiting that Christmas chestnut, we might ask whether our celebration is served, or is driven by, the purchased goods and trappings of the season. What is the content behind it all? Religious or not, what are we actually celebrating? We should always be asking: how far does the world meet our needs and those of others; and how far do its conventions, fashions and promotions lead or drive us? Perhaps away from real need?

If our Christmas preparations are truly in search of something to celebrate, let us not be too downcast. The divine is not nearly so simple as churches would sometimes have us believe. God is a Holy mystery. Like the magi, let us at least keep up the search.

Stephen

Contact Details

Stephen Tudway, Vicar

01931 719210

Elizabeth Coy, Church Warden

01931 713211

Maureen Barber, Church Warden

01931 713314

Christmas at St. Patrick’s

Christmas Carols with Holy Communion

on Christmas Eve beginning at **7.30pm**

There will be mulled wine and mince pies after the service

All are welcome

Christmas Coffee and Gifts Morning

It's already time to think about Christmas, and this year our Christmas Coffee and Gifts Morning will take place on **Saturday, 2nd December** from **10am till 12 noon**. The entry price for **adults is £3 (children free)** and will include tea/coffee and a selection of delicious cakes. The usual array of items will be on sale: preserves, gifts, books and good quality bric-a-brac. In addition our usual raffle will take place, with excellent prizes for the festive season including £50 in cash and a very desirable Christmas food hamper. Raffle tickets will be available in advance from PCC members and for sale on the day and will be drawn at the event. Make a note in your diaries and get all your festive needs without leaving the valley!

COME AND JOIN US
for
ST PATRICK'S CAFE CHURCH
on Human Rights Sunday, **10th December at 9.45am**
and talk about this red hot topic with us
On **14th January at 9.45am** come and join our discussion about Meditation

Bell Ringing

Visiting ringers and anyone who might be interested in learning how to ring are always welcome. Practice dates (see Diary Dates) are subject to change. Please contact the Tower Captain in advance on Tel: 01931 716822 in order to confirm a date and time before your visit. Thank you.

Bampton PCC

Welcome Packs

A few years ago the PCC at St. Patrick's, the Bampton Trust and Bampton Parish Council worked together to create a *Welcome Pack* for new people arriving in the valley. The pack consists of an attractive folder with useful local information – medical services, schools, local clubs etc. and is supplemented with a copy of *Ploughing in Latin* which the Bampton Local History Society generously donates. There is a small group of us which compiles and delivers the pack so, if you have a new neighbour, please get in touch (contact details below) and one of the team will ensure your neighbour receives a pack.

If you have information you would like to be included in the packs, please get in touch too.

Marion Jones (713555) mjoneskili@gmail.com

Tinclar's Library

The library will be **closed throughout December and reopen on 8th January**. However, if anyone wants to visit during this period, please ring me on 713434. We would like to pass on Season's Greetings to all our visitors.

Sue Bletcher, Trustee

Interested in the history of your family, house, or land?

Cumbria-based historian providing archival and online research, help with brick-walls, reading old documents, and more.

Associate of the *Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives*, Associate Fellow of the *Royal Historical Society* and doctoral researcher at the *University of York*.

Contact Joe: joseph6.saunders@outlook.com / www.josephsaundershistory.co.uk

Memorial Hall 50/50 Club

So just the Bumper December Prize draw to go (1st prize £50, 2nd £16, 3rd £12), may you have the lucky numbers.

Congratulations to the November winners: Yvonne Grundy, David Cooke and Christine Evans.

Thank you to everyone who purchased numbers this year, the money raised has paid for new cleaning equipment for the halls.

Would you like a lucky number or two for 2024? The 50/50 Club is open to everybody and only costs **£12 per year** – i.e., £1 per month. Full details are on the application form.

For the 2024 Draw you can apply for your numbers in a variety of ways:

- Apply directly online via trybooking. By doing it this way you may be able to ‘bag’ the number you want.
- <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BXRR>
- Or <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/33583>
- scan the QR code on the application form
- Email Lucinda for a form, info@cumbriahorsetrials.com
- Fill in the form included in this December Newsletter

Some numbers have already been purchased, thank you.

Please return all forms to Lucinda, directly, by email, online or handed in at the Village store by 5th January 2024.

Best of luck to everybody for 2024

Lucinda Weymouth 713245, Bampton Hall.

Community Lunches

The monthly Community Lunch in the Memorial Hall will continue on the dates below. We will be offering a choice of soup and pudding, home-made bread, tea or coffee and chocolates – and the price has remained the same as last year at £5.00 per person. The dates are as follows:-

12th December

16th January

13th February

12th March

Doors open at 12 noon.

If you would like to join us but cannot get a lift, please contact Jane Storey on 01931 713490. We look forward to seeing you all again.

The Bampton Trust

The Bampton Trust, set up in 1996, is a registered charity, whose purpose is to support and advance charitable purposes in Bampton and adjacent areas of the Lowther Valley, Cumbria. Financial assistance can be made available to individuals, organisations or charities for a wide range of purposes, notably activities that will strengthen local communities or promote sustainable development.

As one of the changes the Trustees are looking to make ahead of 2024, **we wish to appoint a Secretary**. Over a 3 month period, this role will demand approximately 6 hours of effort supporting Trust business. Duties involve attending the quarterly meetings, taking minutes and circulating these to the Trustees with relevant action points. As with the Trustee positions, it is unpaid and dependent on a willingness to volunteer for and contribute to your local community. If you have appropriate experience and interest, we'd really appreciate your support. Please send a brief note covering your experience to bamptontrust@gmail.com.

Today the Trust owns four houses in Bampton Grange which are let to local people. No 1 Bampton Grange has recently been let to a new tenant, Paul and his partner Shelley. Shelley has taken a part time job at the Bampton Valley Stores. A fifth property which was also purchased by the Trust was converted to provide the Post Office and local shop, including a tea room and bed and breakfast accommodation. Our local Community Pub, The Mardale Inn, manages the bed and breakfast accommodation and Bampton Valley Stores is run by Askham Village Stores. The Post Office is now available in the Village Hall every Wednesday morning at 9am to 10.30am.

Since its inception the Trust has made grants to a variety of local organisations. It also maintains the village garden and supports local events. The Bampton Trust has also made grants to individuals, in particular to meet educational needs.

The Trust has a board of trustees made up of local people and currently they are:-

Susan Bowman ([01931 713327](tel:01931713327))

Mike Dyke (mike.dyke@gmail.com)

Alison Kitchen, Treasurer (alison@kitech.co.uk)

Phil Sweetland (psweetland101@gmail.com)

David White, Chairman (malcolmwh@aol.com)

Jane Storey (jane_storey@btinternet.com)

Mark Wells (mgw1971@hotmail.com)

Informal approaches to the Trustees are welcomed from bodies or individuals who are considering approaching the Bampton Trust for assistance.

Formal requests and volunteering for the Secretary role can be made at this address: bamptontrust@gmail.com

Trustees, Bampton Trust

Bampton Memorial Hall

The committee require a person once a month to do general tidying up externally and small repair jobs. This is a paid position based on hours worked, Please apply to Patrick Lacey on 07768314921.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

This event always amazes me as people are so generous and I wish to thank everyone, whatever you did, whether it was helping on the day, baking, giving for the stalls, raffle and donations: I sincerely THANK YOU. The amount raised was £768.

Next year I would like a few ideas to do something a little different, so please any ideas gratefully received. Thanking you once again – I could not do it without you all.

Lesley White

Bampton & District Local History Society

The October and November meetings of the Bampton & District Local History Society, (BDLHS), were both well attended, and heard respectively from Lee Schofield, (Fighting for Nature on a Lake District Hill Farm), and Donald Angus, (A History of Mining in the Lake District). The 2023/2024 programme continues with a visit to the Mardale Inn at **2pm on Tuesday 5th December**. The subject is “The Mardale Inn at St Patrick’s Well: Path to Community Ownership”, and the speaker is Phil Sweetland, Chair of Bampton Valley Community Pub. The session will briefly talk to the conversion of the building to a community owned pub starting in 2021 but will particularly aim, with the help of those attending, to explore more of its past. The meeting is open to members, guests and visitors. We particularly invite you to bring along and share, memories, photographs, and reminiscences as we all aim to piece together a more comprehensive history of our community pub. The fire will be lit, tea, coffee and cakes will be available free of charge, and the bar will also be open for potential use of your Mardale Inn Loyalty Card.

The first meeting of 2024 will be held on **Tuesday 9th January** in the Memorial Hall at **2pm**, when the speaker, Jean Scott-Smith from Shap, will be giving a talk on "Traditions & Customs in the Lake District."

The **February** meeting is to be held on **Tuesday 6th, at 2pm** in the Memorial Hall, when the speaker will be Rob David, on the subject "Holidays in the Lake District in the 1940's/50's." Further details in the next Newsletter.

Meetings of the BDLHS are open to members and visitors. Anyone interested in joining the Society should make contact with the Membership Secretary, Heather Pitt (01931 719187).

Andrew Yates, Chair BDLHS

Shap Community Band: We're Recruiting!

All are welcome, adults and children (7+), all abilities, any instrument. We are delighted to have been awarded a grant from Shap Community Enterprise to enable our band to grow and flourish. We rehearse on **Tuesday** evenings (term time) at Shap School. Beginner brass (instruments provided, open to complete beginners) is at **6.00 – 6.45pm** and Main Band is from **6.45pm – 7.30pm**. Subs: £4 a session; £2 for each subsequent family member. Full bursaries available, just ask!

Contact Katie Hodges at bluejamarts@gmail.com

Bampton Valley Community Pub Update

With the busy Summer now past and the pub continuing to operate on a managed basis, we're delighted to be sharing back the profits earned from then for local community benefit.

The first initiative to demonstrate this is the new Mardale Inn Loyalty Card. Use of this card enables folks to enjoy preferred local pricing. For every £50 spent, today you can get £5 back equating to a 10% discount on food and drink. Application for the card can be online at www.themardaleinn.com/loyalty or by completing a paper form in the pub. The card can be used on a smartphone or also be made available as a physical card. We'd love as many 'loyal locals', as well as BVCP Members, to enjoy tangible financial benefit from the pub being both community owned and managed, so please apply now!

Those who have been to The Mardale over the last couple of weeks will have seen the new tables and chairs in the bar area. As well as making sitting more comfortable, they give us more flexibility avoiding a 2 person reservation taking up a 4 person table. Given the small increase in effective capacity, a couple of the tables in the bar area will now be permanently 'Reserved for Chat' and will no longer be reservable by diners. Drop by and utilise whenever you fancy a warm Mardale welcome. (Thanks also to those who've picked some of our old furniture to re-home it!)

We obviously did this in Winter 2022/23 as well but we're delighted to be repeating it again this year. Every **Friday** between **midday and 2pm** during the dark winter months, we offer a 20% discount on 'Seniors Lunches'. With use of our new loyalty card, this can result in a small fish and chips or beef and ale stew costing just £8 on the day – but in reality just £7.20 given the further 'loyal local' discount. Our community pub kitchen was funded by The Prince's Countryside Fund for rural benefit and we're delighted to be able to prove it through some great community pricing in these tough times. (If you'd like a lift to the 'Seniors Lunch' from somewhere in the Valley, just give the pub a call 24 hours in advance on 719202).

We mentioned in the last Newsletter about the importance of offering good jobs to the Valley. We had a positive response from that and now have a number of additional youngsters working with us.

In addition to the local sourcing of young talent, we are delighted to be selling more food sourced from the Valley. On our Autumn Menu now is a fabulous dish made using Rosgill Hall Soay Hoggett. We also have wild venison taken from the hills above the Valley and processed locally. Any other ideas to link what the pub sells with what is produced locally are really welcome!

A big update again but lots to share. Remember to ask for a Mardale Inn Loyalty Card for use on phone or as a card as soon as possible and start accessing that preferred local pricing. Visit the pub for a form or go online to www.themardaleinn.com/loyalty.

The BVCP/Mardale Inn Team

PS Watch out for more details but we will be open for lunchtime drinks and nibbles again on Christmas Day, with the traditional Valley charity pub quiz on **Boxing Day** evening at **7pm**. Also on **Thursday January 25th** it will be Burns Night at the pub with tickets for sale in early January. Send us an email to

info@themardaleinn.com or call in if you'd particularly like to keep updated on that.

Business advertising on the Bampton Parish Council website

Bampton Parish Council (BPC) has expressed an interest in allowing paid-for adverts within its website. This is intended to generate revenue from appropriately sourced advertising, whilst simultaneously providing valuable information and resources to the residents and parishioners.

The BPC website serves as a vital online platform for our community, offering a wide range of information and services including updates on local events, government policies, Westmoreland & Furness Council initiatives, community resources and more.

We likewise want to provide support for local business and raise opportunities for them to connect with our community. This approach has the potential to generate revenue for BPC while maintaining the website's integrity and relevance to our community.

The idea is that from April 2024 we will have a new online page, where local businesses can advertise their products or services with their name, brief details of what they do, contact details and a link to their website too. Their advert will run for 12 months. The cost for this will be £40 for the year, which represents excellent value in terms of promoting your business.

There are a number of benefits of this idea which include:

- * Generating additional income that can be spent directly on projects that benefit the residents and parishioners of Bampton. These funds will be reinvested directly back into the Parish, enabling us to provide better services and resources to our community.

- * Providing additional means of supporting local businesses who rely on advertising to remain visible for potential customers. Local businesses and organisations can benefit from increased visibility on our website, reaching a broader audience within the community.

- * Demonstrating to visitors and potential residents that the area has a viable and diverse economy of small businesses.

If you are interested in being part of this and advertising your business on the website, please contact Suzanne Stolberg on 07377 526411 or email suzanne@wordofmouthassociates.co.uk

Bampton Community First Responder Team

The team have been continuing to meet up to train and our last training session included the annual assessment of the team's abilities in CPR and First Aid. I'm very pleased (but not surprised) to say that everyone passed with flying colours and they are good to go when necessary. The next team meeting will be coming up soon and we will continue to train to be ready to help the community when needed.

If you think you'd like to join the team and help provide essential emergency cover for the local community please feel free to get in contact with me for an informal chat or look at the NWS CFR page <http://www.nwas-responders.info/> All applications are submitted through the web page and are confidential.

If you feel unwell and think it is a medical emergency DIAL 999 or 112 and ask for AMBULANCE. Any on call CFR's will then be tasked by Ambulance control to attend if appropriate. CFR's will not be tasked to attend all 999 calls but will be asked to attend the following type of emergencies: abdominal pain, severe allergic reaction, breathing problems, fitting, diabetic emergency, chest pain, stroke, loss of consciousness, collapse, cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, some trauma. We will not normally be tasked to any incident involving children under 12.

Christine Hill, Bampton CFR Team 07771934996 christinehillski@gmail.com

Bampton REMOTE cinema

9/12/2023 Cumbrian Red Saving Our Red Squirrels

16/12/2023 Mission Impossible Dead Reckoning Part 1 (2023, 12A, 163 mins)

20/01/2024 Pretty Red Dress (2022, 15, 110mins)

Yes! We are pleased to present an extra film for **December** on **Saturday 9th** at the special time of **4.30pm**. **Cumbrian Red** is written, produced and directed by local film-maker Terry Abraham, who is well-known for his Life of a Mountain trilogy. Terry has kindly agreed to introduce the film and take questions from the audience and importantly, agreed to edit in an interval so we can enjoy an ice-cream and a visit to the bar in our usual fashion! **Tickets will be £5 adult, £2 U16** at the door, so no need to book. **Doors will open from 4pm**. Do come in droves and bring all the family!

Mission Impossible Dead Reckoning Part 1: Tom Cruise is agent Ethan Hunt in his latest action-packed spy adventure, with scenes shot in the Lake District. Film critics are calling this the best “Mission” ever; the film year’s blockbuster not to be missed.

Pretty Red Dress: Starring Alexandra Burke and Natey Jones. Set against the backdrop of south London and humming with the energy of iconic Tina Turner hits, Pretty Red Dress follows a family tested to its limits when Travis, fresh out of jail, is found wearing a dress by his partner Candice.

Tickets will be on sale at Bampton Stores **for Mission Impossible on Wednesday, 29th November to Wednesday, 13th December** if you wish supper + film. Tickets are on sale at the door on the night for film only as usual. It’s very useful for us to have a contact list for those buying a supper ticket plus film and the shop will record that. Do please take advantage of the vegetarian option available as we are happy to provide for that. **Look out for the film posters around the village for all these films and ticket dates: adult meal + film: £12; U16 meal + film: £9. Film ticket price, adult: £5; U16:£2.**

As always, there is the bar courtesy of the village hall with the finest wines known to humanity, beers and soft drinks. **Supper is served at 6pm** in Bampton Memorial Hall and **the film starts at 7.30pm**. Ice-creams at the interval with a new flavour added, mango sorbet and our familiar favourites: Just Jersey, Blackcurrant and Chocolate for only £2.

Thank you for continuing to support your cinema on the doorstep. More great films on the way: **17th February, 16th March and 20th April**. Merry Christmas! Call Hazel (713311) for any questions about cinema matters.

Bampton REMOTE Film Committee: Hazel, Mike, Sue and Dave

Le groupe français

L'hiver approche et nous attendons avec impatience les fêtes de fin d'année où nous pourrions profiter de notre famille et de nos amis. Nous continuerons néanmoins à travailler dur et nous nous réunirons en décembre et janvier, si le temps le permet. Joyeux Noël et bonne année à tous!

Marion Jones (713555) mjoneskili@gmail.com

Bampton Parish Council

We get a variety of matters raised to the Parish Council, there has been rather a theme over the last few years along the lines of inappropriate use of the recycling facility or other concerns over rubbish left from visitors/properties which are ineligible using household waste facilities. As part of this wider issue the Council had a request from the Village Hall committee for funding to go towards CCTV for the recycling centre, due to issues they were having with commercial waste being dumped and general "mess". I must comment though on the much appreciated long term work by Lesley White and others in keeping the area tidy and raising issues with us.

Following the installation of the CCTV this summer there was an incident of a significant amount of food waste (everything from uncooked chicken to a nearly full bottle of oil) being "fly-tipped" at the recycling centre. One of our councillors, Pete Salway, came across this and through working with the Hall committee was able to provide the CCTV of those that dumped the waste and a witness statement to Environmental Enforcement at Westmorland & Furness Council. The council took enforcement action and the "offenders" received and paid a £200 pound enforcement fine.

Although the council kept their identity private as they paid the fine, we as a council were disappointed to find out that they had been staying locally in holiday accommodation. We would like to take this opportunity to remind providers of holiday accommodation or other commercial services of their duty to deal with their commercial waste – I'm sure most are responsible operators and do not need reminding of this! Further information can be found at this address <https://www.eden.gov.uk/business-and-trade/trade-waste-and-recycling/> or by contacting the council. I think this is particularly pertinent in the current climate with both increases in tourism and interest in the environment, with all the variety of opinions that brings!

Our next Parish Council meeting is on **Tuesday, 23rd January** in the Memorial Hall at **7pm**.

India Tuer

Bampton Pilates

Pilates is continuing in Bampton Memorial Hall at **5.30pm and 6.30pm on Monday evenings**. Every class has a different focus, and we use different equipment to facilitate improving our strength, mobility and flexibility. All equipment is provided. Please contact Alexis on 07411 902674 or penrithpilates@gmail.com

10 months in Senegal – The '*Teranga*' Welcome

Having spent 2 months in Yéne, a thriving commune of fishing villages on the 'petit côte' of the West African country of Senegal, I am lucky enough to say that I already feel very comfortable in my home away from home.

The Senegalese love to speak about how peaceful they are, and although one could mention the political protests and strikes that happen constantly in the south or the riot that occurred before a local (village) football finale last Sunday, you cannot help but agree that most people here just go with the flow. Their religious tolerance is a clear example of this – Christians and Muslims live closely as friends and it is not uncommon for families and marriages to be inter-religious.

In some regards, one could consider Senegal as relatively liberal – the range of clothing women wear, with no judgement from others, varies from the loose-fitting traditional '*bubus*' (dresses) to skinny jeans and vest tops. However, we do often wonder where all the women are when we head to the beach or watch the football matches. The likely answer is that they are working hard preparing dinner or keeping their immaculate houses sand-free (an endless task as we have discovered) whilst managing to look entirely effortless and beautiful in the gorgeous Senegalese dresses which make our clothes look like they belong to homeless people (I once got told I was wearing the skirt of a peasant and it was my favourite skirt!) However, keeping in line with the infamous title 'The Country of *Teranga*' we have been gifted a dress each by an incredibly generous family! *Teranga* is the name given to the very warm welcome the Senegalese receive visitors and strangers with.

I am still not accustomed to waking up and ending the day with such beautiful oceanic sunrises and sunsets over half-built and characterful houses – if you thought the views in the Lakes were good these are on another level. Everything in Senegal seems to be infused with a little bit more joy – maybe it is the fact that they get 12 hours of sunlight all year round but everything and everyone from the djembe music to the enthusiastic students we teach have that extra little bounce that England may be lacking.

We are fortunate to be eating with a neighbouring family and have been well converted to the Senegalese diet and style of eating. Fish is bought directly from the fisherman's wives the day it is caught and all the vegetables are sourced from the various stalls lined up along the street. The diligent Senegalese women and girls turn this very local produce into the national dish and my new favourite dish: *Cheboudienne* (translated as rice and fish) every lunch. I look forward to being able to cook it properly for you on my return!

Senegal and its people constantly keep up its celebrated name as the country of '*Teranga*'. Since we have arrived in our home for the year, we have been invited to have '*Attaya*' or sweet tea with numerous families, taught how to cook *Cheboudienne* and beignets, been gifted many bowls of fresh fruit (the best treat you can have here after an often sweaty day!) and we in return have thanked them graciously in the little wolof (their native language) that we have learnt – so far... Till next time or *Ba Banan yone!*

Alexa Weymouth

Raft race 2023

Well, that was a strange afternoon! Worries about the weather were unfounded in the end when the sun appeared. It was disappointing that for the 30th anniversary race there were only four entrants, but that said, they were all of high-quality and provided entertainment for the biggest crowd of spectators, I have seen, numbers having been boosted by both The Mardale in promotion and Bampton Stores, having advertised the event in Askham. The weather and the crowd provided great trade for The Mardale with their pop-up bar, first at the event.

Unfortunately, for the first time, the event ran at a small loss and all proceeds are always donated to a charity. However, I will make a donation to the air ambulance if only to accommodate the £3.50 donation from the very kind lady on Bampton Grange Bridge!

I have always tried to maintain the traditions of the raft race, keeping it fairly unstructured (like some of the rafts over the years!), and it would be a shame if, with the dwindling number of entrants, another event was to be lost from the village calendar. As ever, these events rely on those big hearted, individuals who volunteer and I must thank everyone who plays a part, from loan of equipment to giving up their valuable time on a bank holiday afternoon, and to The Mardale getting involved for the first time.

Tim Ward

December events at Shap

Sat 2nd December: Winter Coffee Morning, Shap Bowling Club, The Bower

Sat 10th December: St Michael's Christmas Coffee Morning at the Memorial Hall

Fri 15th December: Music at The Old Courthouse, Jilly Jarman, Kenneth Wilson

Sat 17th December: Shap Farmers' and Makers' Market, Appleby Town Band

Tue 19th December: Village Carol Service, **7pm** in the Memorial Hall

Thu 21st December: Carols at the Kings Arms, **7pm**

24th December: Crib Service at St Michael's, **5.30pm**

6th January: Mothers Union Coffee Morning at The Hermitage, all welcome.

Fri 19th January: Music at The Old Courthouse, John Chambers, Pete Garnett

Bampton Mobile Post Office

Bampton Post Office operates from the Memorial Hall on **Wednesdays between 9.00 – 10.30am**: most postal services continue to be available from this mobile unit.

The local bus

Face masks are now optional on the Fellrunner bus weekly **Thursday** service. The bus will go down **Rosgill Hill at 10.10am**, then travel via **Bampton Grange (10.18am)** to **Burnbanks (10.25am)** and leave **Bampton at 10.34am** to arrive (via Morrisons) at **Penrith Bus Station at 11.05am**. The return bus will leave **Penrith Bus Station at 1.15pm** to arrive back in **Bampton at 1.42pm**, **Burnbanks at 1.53pm** and **Rosgill at 2.08pm** (subject to passenger requirements). Bus passes can be used and children under 16 years travel free.

Bampton Village Website www.bamptonlakedistrict.org.uk

Please send any updates for the website to Chris Cant on chris@phdcc.com or 713240. Any new photos very welcome.

Copy deadline for the February/March issue is 5pm on Tuesday 23rd January. Please send all items to Heather Pitt (Tel no: 01931 719187) pathfinders2728@gmail.com or Jane Storey (Tel no: 01931 713490) Jane_storey@btinternet.com. Thank you.

PARISH DIARY (Note MH = Memorial Hall)

DECEMBER

Sa 2 nd	Christmas Coffee & Gifts Morning, 10am-12 noon
Su 3rd	Holy Communion with Sheila Clark, 9.45am
Mo 4 th	Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm
Tu 5 th	BDLHS, Mardale Inn, 2pm
We 6 th	French Group, Small Hall, 2.30-3.30pm Indoor Bowls, MH, 7pm
Th 7 th	Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm
Sat 9 th	Bampton Cinema, MH, "Cumbrian Red". Doors open 4.30pm
Su 10th	'Café Church', Church Hall, 9.45am
Mo 11 th	Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm
Tu 12 th	Community Lunch, MH, from 12 noon
We 13 th	Indoor Bowls, MH, 7pm
Th 14 th	Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm
Sa 16 th	Bampton Cinema, MH, "Mission Impossible". Doors open 7pm
Su 17th	Holy Communion with Sheila Clark, 9.45am
Mo 18 th	Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm
We 20 th	French Group, Small Hall, 2.30-3.30pm Indoor Bowls, MH, 7pm
Th 21 st	Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm
Su 24th	Christmas Carols and Holy Communion with Stephen, 7.30pm Mulled wine and mince pies in Church afterwards
Tu 26 th	Charity Pub Quiz, Mardale Inn, 7pm
We 27 th	Indoor Bowls, MH, 7pm
Th 28 th	Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm
Su 31st	Joint Holy Communion service with Stephen at Morland, 11am

JANUARY

We 3 rd	Indoor Bowls, MH, 7pm
Th 4 th	Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm
Su 7th	Holy Communion with Stephen, 9.45am
Mo 8 th	Tinclar's Library, Church Hall, 12-2pm Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm

Tu 9th Joint Benefice Holy Communion service, with Stephen, **6pm**
BDLHS, MH, 2pm

We 10th French Group, Small Hall, 2.30-3.30pm
Indoor Bowls, MH, 7pm

Th 11th Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm

Su 14th ‘Café Church’, Church Hall, **9.45am**

Mo 15th Tinclar’s Library, Church Hall, 12-2pm
Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm

Tu 16th Community Lunch, MH, from 12 noon

We 17th Indoor Bowls, MH, 7pm

Th 18th Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm

Sa 20th Bampton Cinema, MH, “Pretty Red Dress”. Doors open 7pm

Su 21st Holy Communion with James Bell, **9.45am**

Mo 22nd Tinclar’s Library, Church Hall, 12-2pm
Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm

Tu 23rd Parish Council meeting, MH, 7pm. All welcome

We 24th French Group, Small Hall, 2.30-3.30pm
Indoor Bowls, MH, 7pm

Th 25th Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm
Burns Night, Mardale Inn

Sa 27th Joint Benefice Holocaust Memorial service at Askham, **6.30pm**

Su 28th Holy Communion with Sheila Clark, **9.45am**

Mo 29th Tinclar’s Library, Church Hall, 12-2pm
Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm

We 31st Indoor Bowls, MH, 7pm

The Abbey Kitchen

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CAFÉ TAKEAWAY GIFTS

JENNY AND THE TEAM LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU

Wednesday to Saturday 8.30am to 4.30pm

Sunday 10.00am to 3.00pm

Music Lessons

Face-to-face or online tuition in percussion, drums, piano, brass and theory. 20 years experience teaching (Guildhall, Royal College of Music, Trinity/Laban) and performing (London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia, Adele, Kanye West and the Kings Consort). Beginners, advanced students and those who want to brush up their skills are all welcome!

Steve and Katie 01931 716749 Rosgill

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