

# Coniston and Crake Valley News

Serving the parishes of Colton, Coniston and  
Torver, Egton cum Newland & Lowick with Blawith



**June 2021** [www.conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk](http://www.conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk)

# The Coniston and Crake Valley Benefice

*"To Grow, Witness and Love Like Jesus"*



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# Pastoral Letter

Dear friends,

One of my responsibilities in ministry was to fulfil the role of Chaplain to a local hospice. This ministry drew upon: my belief that God had called me to do this work for Him, my faith in God to provide any needs in the role, the Christian belief in life after death and God's ability and desire to heal the broken hearted. The hospice was a place where heaven and earth met.

The role of Chaplain had many facets: breaking up a physical fight, helping families to be reconciled to one another, a witness to miracles and standing in awe of hospice staff who not only used their skills but also their own tears and love.

One of the responsibilities as Chaplain was to deliver seminars on the spiritual care of the dying. In addition to hospice staff, medics from local hospitals and surgeries also took part. On one occasion a group of Junior Doctors were in attendance as part of their placement in the hospice. At the end of each seminar there was a question and answer session. I posed the question, "How does it feel to be contemplating your own mortality?" Responses ranged from the declaration of no interest at all in the subject to embarrassed silence and the shuffling of feet. One of the doctors spoke up. He said, "I have no fear of the day of my death, for as a Christian, on that day I will meet Jesus face to face". The silence was profound and was followed by an open and honest discussion about death and dying. The speaker testified to his faith in Jesus Christ and the difference his faith made to his life, including his calling to be a doctor.

Death is not a subject many discuss or personally contemplate. Yet for the Christian, death should not be a taboo subject. At the core of our faith is the belief, the assurance, that if we are in Christ, if Jesus is our Lord and Saviour and our lives are committed to His purposes here on earth, then death holds no fear, nor is death the end. Death is the time of the fulfilment of all of our Lord's promises.

Jesus came to seek and save the lost, the deceived, the hopeless, those who love life and those who fear death. When confronted by the death of a friend and challenged by the deceased's sister Jesus asked her a question. He said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" Her reply was simple, "Yes Lord I believe..." Well, how about you, do you believe the Lord's words? If so, then death should not be feared but rather awaited with expectancy.

In Him, *Harry*

## CORONAVIRUS, COVID-19 UPDATE



The Bishop of Carlisle, the Rt. Revd. James Newcome, has previously written to all clergy to advise that the suspension of public worship has been lifted in the Diocese of Carlisle.

**Please refer to the [benefice website](#) for the latest information on the provision of worship and the associated risk assessments, and note that face masks must be worn**

## Church Services for June 2021

<b>6<sup>th</sup> First Sunday after Trinity</b>			
<b>St. Luke</b> Torver	9.00am	<b>Bikers Breakfast</b>	Rev Ian Swift
<b>St. Luke</b> Lowick	9.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Rev Brian Streeter
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday after Trinity</b>			
<b>St. Andrew</b> Coniston	11.00am	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>	Rev David Bickersteth
<b>St. Mary</b> Penny Bridge	11.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Rev Brian Streeter
<b>20<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday after Trinity</b>			
<b>St. Luke</b> Torver	9.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Rev Brian Streeter
<b>Holy Trinity</b> Colton	9.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Rev David Bickersteth
<b>St. Mary</b> Penny Bridge	11.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Rev Harry Welch
<b>27<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday after Trinity</b>			
<b>St. Luke</b> Lowick	9.30am	<b>Methodist Service</b>	TBA
<b>St. Andrew</b> Coniston	11.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Rev Brian Streeter
<b>St. Luke</b> Torver	7.00pm	<b>Torver Junction</b>	Rev Brian Streeter

## Churches in the Coniston and Crake Valley

**St Andrew's Church**, Coniston LA21 8EN

**St Luke's Church**, Torver LA21 8AZ

**St Luke's Church**, Lowick LA12 8EE

**Holy Trinity Church**, Colton LA12 8HF

**Church of St Mary the Virgin**, Penny Bridge LA12 7RQ

**Tottlebank Baptist Church**, Colton LA12 8HY

Welcomes you to our Sunday services from 10.30 to 11.30am followed by refreshments, and midweek prayer meetings on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Our moderator is Rev. Andrew Dodd. For further information contact Chris and Margaret Hamps, hampsc@outlook.com

**Coniston Methodist Church**, Coniston LA21 8HH

The Sunday morning service is at 11.00am and a warm welcome awaits you. For further information contact Joyce Holland on 015394 41594.

**St Francis of Assisi Church of the Sacred Heart**, Coniston LA21 8AW

Mass is held on Thursdays at 10.00am and Saturdays at 6.00pm. For further information contact Father Matthew Jacob on 01229 779673.

**Coniston Christian Fellowship** LA21 8AL

During the month of June we are meeting on Sunday mornings via Zoom. For more information please contact Alex and Ruth Stewart on 015394 49539. See our web-site for more details [www.conistonchristianfellowship.co.uk](http://www.conistonchristianfellowship.co.uk)

## Parish Prayer Diary June 2021

**1st:** Pray for parents everywhere nurturing their children and showing them the ways of love, justice and truth. (*Proverbs 3:5-6*).

**2nd:** At 10am join Christians across the benefice for an hour of prayer at home, praying for family, community, nation and the needs of the world.

**3rd:** Pray for Victim Support charity providing specialist support to individuals of all ages affected by crime and traumatic events including domestic violence.

**4th:** Pray for the wedding of Georgina Walker and Andrew Warne taking place at St Andrew's Coniston this afternoon.

**5th:** Pray for the mission of the People's Vaccine Alliance as it campaigns for everyone in every country to have access to a tested Covid-19 vaccine.

**6th: Sunday, the first day of the week**

Pray our faithful and unchanging Lord will help us grow in knowledge of His truth and draw us deeper into His love that we may truly worship our Holy God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**7th:** Pray for schools returning after the half-term break.

**8th:** Pray for the millions of unpaid carers giving vital care to loved ones living with an illness, disability or mental health condition.

**9th:** Pray for the Queen and members of the royal family.

**10th:** Pray for the Christian church in Myanmar, as believers prayerfully follow Jesus with boldness and courage, and pray for church leaders caring for their congregations during immensely challenging times.

**11th:** Pray for the G7 Summit in Cornwall, that delegates may reach good decisions for the future.

**12th:** Pray for those living with dementia, in all its forms, and for those who daily care and support them.

**13th: Sunday, the first day of the week**

May our God of truth help us to keep His law of Love, and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may know the true life of peace and joy Jesus alone brings.

**14th:** Pray for the unemployed as they look for work.

**15th:** Pray for Holy Trinity Colton Parish Council as they meet this evening.

**16th:** Pray for those in our farming community, working long hours, often in isolation. Pray for wisdom for their decisions and pray they keep safe.

**17th:** Pray for charities such as Age UK, Age Concern, Counsel & Care, providing advice to older people and their families.

**18th:** Pray for those who work locally in the veterinary sector caring for animals, both livestock and pets.

**19th:** Pray for fathers everywhere as they strive to provide for their families. Pray God will guide them to be good, loving role models to their children.

**20th: Sunday, the first day of the week**

Pray our faithful creator God may deepen our faithfulness to Him and help us grow in the knowledge of his living Word, Jesus.

**21st:** Pray for the Coniston Parish Council meeting taking place this evening.

**22nd:** Pray for healthcare professionals in children's hospices caring for seriously ill children, young people, and supporting their families.

**23rd:** Pray for St Mary's Parish Council meeting this evening.

**24th:** Pray for those who served in the Armed Forces and are having a difficult time adjusting to life out of the military, especially those suffering with PTSD.

**25th:** Pray for all medical staff in our hospitals, as they move from battling Covid-19 to address long waiting lists of delayed treatments and procedures.

**26th:** Pray for Prison Chaplains, that through their work and ministry lives of inmates will be transformed and made whole.

**27th: Sunday, the first day of the week**

Pray that God our Saviour look on this wounded world in pity and power and hold us fast to His promise of peace that passes all understanding won for us at Calvary.

**28th:** Pray for those living in retirement, residential and supported housing, and for the administrators, catering, ancillary and maintenance staff.

**29th:** Pray for all who serve the Lord overseas, especially in areas where Christianity is viewed with suspicion and Christians persecuted.

**30th:** Pray for charities such as Shelter and Housing Justice providing practical support to the homeless whilst working to campaign for more social housing.



## Soultime Christian Meditation

Anxiety, Sleep Help & Bible

*"Soultime is a beautiful, quiet and accessible way of drawing close to God in Jesus day by day. I warmly recommend it to you."* **Archbishop Justin Welby**



## Prayer Hour, At Home

2nd June, 10am – 11am

Although for the time being we cannot physically meet together in a church building, our prayer fellowship can still pray, each at the same hour, in the safety of our own homes on the first Wednesday of each month. If you can join in at 10am on 2nd June please use this format to guide your prayers as we pray together.

Settle into this hour of prayer by reflecting on the opening three verses of Psalm 5

*In the morning, Lord, You hear my voice;  
In the morning I lay my requests before You  
And wait expectantly*

And as we begin our time together, we say the prayer Jesus taught us:

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name  
Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven  
Give us today day our daily bread  
Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever.  
Amen.*

During this quiet hour...

hold before the Lord, the matters that weigh heavy on your heart, situations you have seen in the media, items or issues from the prayer diary which especially speak to you;

pray for your family, your neighbours, your community contacts;

the Christian fellowship in the Benefice of Coniston and Crake Valley;

the Church across its national and international denominations;

pray for our Country and the Nations of the world.

Take time also to be still, to listen to the gentle whisper of God.

Finally, we close our prayer hour with the words of The Grace:

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and  
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all, evermore. Amen.*

# AROUND THE PARISHES

## Colton

The Bouth W.I. are having their first meeting on the Village green self-distancing on the 9th of June all being well if it doesn't rain, so might get a bit noisy in Bouth that night.

The charity event that took place at Black Beck caravan park which raised in total £2,400 for Chris Lewis, a volunteer for the Patterdale Mountain rescue team who was badly injured. The event was well supported with donations from the villagers of Bouth, and volunteers from Black Beck and the village.

*Jenny Smith*

## Coniston & Torver

### Rainfall, Garden House, Coniston, April 2021

Total 24.6mm (1.0ins)

Wet days 8

More than 1mm on 6 days

Wettest day 8th 11.0mm (0.4ins)

Frost on the 1st & 2nd, 6th, 9th to 16th, 21st, 22nd, 24th, 25th, 28th & 30th

Snow on the 4th & 6th

Driest April since 1980 & the 3rd driest on record.



### Coniston CE Primary School

#### **World Earth Day**

To celebrate world earth day the HSA are helping the children organize a school recycling program. Starting with a clothing bank! And it's here!!! The clothes bank is situated in the school car park to the right of the gates. It is for use by the whole community.

What we do accept is: Clean and undamaged textiles for re-use—Clothes; Underwear; Footwear in pairs & in a reusable state, Bedding - Duvet covers, pillowcases & throws; Curtains;

Cushion Covers; Baby grow bags; Belts; Bags; and Hats.

Sorry we can't accept: Anything wet, torn, dirty or stained; High Visibility Work wear; Duvets, pillows and cushions; Single or damaged shoes; Rugs or Carpets; Business or school branded items

All clothing donated will help raise money for the school, with the clothing being distributed to charities in the UK and abroad. With any unusable materials being recycled into pet bedding!



#### **Puppy Love!**

Class 1 had bundles of fun with the German Shepherd puppies who visited the school! The children watched a short video on how dogs are trained to become police dogs before meeting the puppies in small groups and learning what it takes to care for them. The children were besotted and enjoyed the whole experience. We



would like to say a huge thank you to Sharon who made this amazing experience possible.

### **Y6 JRS Taster Day**

Year 6s will have their John Ruskin Taster day on Tuesday 29th June 2021. This will also be move-up day for Primary children and open morning for our September starters.

### **Mountain Rescue**

Class 1 had a brilliant time with the Coniston Mountain Rescue team. Elizabeth Ribchester talked about what they do, how they do it and what equipment they use. The children listened really well and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to test out a stretcher, radio, really heavy bags and have a sit in the Land Rover. We're so lucky to have such an amazing team on our doorstep. Thank you!

### **Coniston Community Tourist Information Centre**

Coniston Community Tourist Information Centre has been open since 2006 in its current form and is operated by volunteer staff and directors. It forms a crucial part of the tourist requirement and is also a means for local residents to inform and collate events that are an important part of the social interaction within the Coniston basin.

It is the third busiest Information Centre after Bowness and Keswick and in a normal busy year welcomes over 250,000 visitors through its doors.

We would like to hear from anyone who might be happy to assist on a voluntary basis in working in the TIC. A few hours, which may be irregular, are welcome to assist some of our well trained existing volunteers. Full assistance and training will be provided if required.

Please contact: Julie Ward – Supervisor, **015394 41533** or Ron Rutland – Director, **07974 143306**. Thank you.



## **Egton Cum Newland**

### **Greenodd Village Hall**

Coffee mornings/evenings, music shows and more

Find out what is going on in Greenodd Village Hall

**[www.greenoddvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.greenoddvillagehall.co.uk)**

We are on Facebook... search for Greenodd & Penny Bridge Village Hall

## Lowick with Blawith

### 1st Leven Valley (St Anne's) Scout Group

Beaver Scouts Age 6-8

Cub Scouts Age 8 – 10 ½

We need Leaders and Assistant Leaders in both sections. Plus there is not presently a Scout Section (aged 10½ - 14) There are young people who would like one as they are too old for Cubs.

We have a full Cub pack and eight prospective Beaver Scouts hoping to join the existing Beaver Colony of two Beaver Scouts. During lockdown many Beavers have reached age eight and "Moved-On" to Cubs via Zoom!

Scouting contributes to the education of young people and is the world's largest educational youth movement.

Training is mandatory for adult leaders but much can be accomplished on line. Both sections have leaders who would work alongside those during their training. However, if no-one comes forward the Group may close. Beavers will not restart and Cubs will close in a year's time.

More Information? Have a look at **[www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk)** and phone **01229 885498** to chat to the Group Scout Leader, Marguerite Calvert.



## Lowick Community Hall

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OR CONTACT ROB DOVE 01229 885647 OR LISA GRAVE 01229 861834

## REPORTS AND NEWS

### Coniston Mothers' Union



On April 29th six members of Coniston Mother's Union braved the elements to meet together for the 1st time since February 2020. They met in a members garden under cold, grey skies which turned to hail before the sun came out, then back to cold and grey. Umbrellas were up and down and blankets were on then off. The

meeting began with a short form of worship, including a said hymn and prayers especially remembering all who had passed away during the last year. Discussions followed with ideas for the years programme following the National theme for the year 'Rebuilding Hope and Confidence' A cup of tea and home made cakes gave members time to catch up on 14 months of news. It was so good to be back together as a group after so long apart. Their next meeting will be held in another members garden on May 27th.

*Kay Shepherd*

## **Young Farmers Club Report**

### **Cumbria YFC Charity Sky Dive Fund Raiser**

A lot has happened in the 224 days since then Southern District Chairman William Longmire and 5 others made plans to take to the skies for a charity sky dive. Three attempts later and with a further 7 intrepid young farmers added to the hardy bunch, the sky dive finally took place on Sunday 2nd May at the Black Knights Sky Diving Centre, Cockerham, Lancashire.



NFYFC Vice Chairman Ed Dungait, Cumbria YFC President Judith Emmott, Cumbria YFC County Chairman Neil Curr and Southern District Chair Jess Rogerson along



Current and past Southern District  
Chairs Jess Rogerson and William  
Longmire

with Southern District members William Longmire, Chloe Dawson, Connie Hodgson, Beth Pickthall, Lori-jo Sharp, Jenny Wood, Jack Sowerby and Sam Wilson risked life and limb to jump out of planes at 15,000 feet to raise funds for two very worthwhile charities, the Southern District of Cumbria YFC and the Calvert Trust.

Sky dive organiser and past Southern District Chair, William gave his thanks to past Southern District President, John Garnett and current County President, Judith for their support, helping him to overcome the setbacks and carry on organising the charity fundraiser. As well as giving thanks to all those who took part, William commented "The biggest of thanks must go to everyone who has supported all of us with their donations. The money raised will be split between the Southern District of Cumbria YFC and the Calvert Trust and I'm sure after the year we have all had this will be very welcome. Donations are roughly £3500 at the moment so a push to get that last £1500 would be amazing!"

Those who are taking part are all extremely grateful for the support and donations they have received so far and any donation, large or small is very much appreciated! Donations can still be made at the link for the sky dive Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/yfc-skydive>

## **South Cumbria Rivers Trust**

Although the Conserving Coniston & Crake Project has finished, SCRT are still active in the valley alongside the Coniston and Crake Catchment Partnership (CCCP). A new pilot project has just got underway "Cool Rivers" which aims to map tree cover

(or lack of it) along becks within both the valley and in the nearby Furness area.

Trees are really important for our becks and rivers, roots help to stabilise banking and provide a place of refuge for small fish and invertebrates whilst the canopy helps to shade and cool the water. Research by the Environment Agency demonstrated that tree shading can cool water by as much as 5°C, which in drought conditions can be a life saver for fish. We'll be using GIS mapping tools but also need some volunteers to carry out on the ground surveys as well. We'll be offering a training session towards the end of June and hope to get people started in July for the first surveys. It is hoped that once we have produced some maps showing where trees are needed then we can work with the landowners to plant the right trees in the right place.

If you'd like to get involved, then please get in touch. The project has been made possible through support from the Rawdon Smith Trust, Sir John Fisher Foundation and SLDC Climate fund.

Kath Smith, Communities & Engagement Officer, South Cumbria Rivers Trust

Email: [kath@scrt.co.uk](mailto:kath@scrt.co.uk) Tel:07825873109 Tel:01539 530047 [www.ccc.scrt.co.uk](http://www.ccc.scrt.co.uk)

## **Citizens Advice**



*I've been saving up to have my kitchen redone, but I'm a bit worried about it. Last time I had any work done on the house, it took more than double the time I thought it would and ended up costing me a fortune. I'm looking for a different builder this time, but how will I know I can trust them?*

Here are some steps you should take when choosing a trader:

- Find a Trading Standards 'approved trader' - use the internet to search for one in your area or the Government's approved trader scheme TrustMark.
- Get references or recommendations - ask people you know or ask the person you hire for examples of work they've carried out in the past. Try to avoid contractors who won't give references - it's a sign they could be dishonest.
- Find out if they are a current member of a trade body - trade bodies have codes of practice and can help resolve problems if things go wrong, so check your trader is a member. Ask who they're registered with and then check the trade body's website.
- Only use certified traders for gas and electrics - it's dangerous to use someone who doesn't know what they're doing. Check the Gas Safe Register for a list of traders and use a registered electrician who can certify their own work. When you're having a kitchen fitted, it's worth checking whether the person you've hired will be doing the electrical or gas work themselves. If not, check who they will be using and whether they're registered.
- Get a written quote - this is different to an estimate. A quote is legally binding and the builder can't change it without a good reason - for example, if you ask for extra work to be done. Try to compare quotes from a number of contractors to make sure you're getting a fair price.

- Get a written contract - this should cover exactly what you're paying for and everything you've agreed on, like timings, payments, who will pay for materials and subcontractors.
- Think carefully about payment - opt to pay in stages rather than upfront. Where possible, try to pay by card as this can afford you extra safeguards if something goes wrong.
- Keep copies of receipts - also keep your written contract as evidence, as well as photos of any problems if they arise.

If you have a problem with a contractor, and you're not sure what to do or where to go, call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline 0808 223 1133 or talk to South Lakes Citizens Advice.

Free, confidential advice and help is available from South Lakes Citizens Advice on any aspect of debt, consumer problems, benefits, housing, employment or any other problems. South Lakes Citizens Advice is still delivering a service - Telephone and Digital Advice. How to access:

- Call 015394 46464 - this is being staffed from 9:30 - 12 noon
- Adviceline: 03444 111 444
- Email advice via our submission page on our website [www.southlakescab.org.uk](http://www.southlakescab.org.uk)
- Help to Claim (Universal Support): 0800 144 8 444

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

### Lowick Parish Council

Mr. Nigel Lord made a bequest in his will to various council and churches one of which was our parish. We have asked for suggestions from our community to help us decide how to fairly allocate these funds. He specifies that they must be used for 'infrastructure and benefit of the local people.'

The secretary of the Lowick Allotments Association has provided a suggestion which was considered by council and deemed to be an appropriate project for funding. They asked that the Association develop their plan and submit with a costed budget for the Councillors to better understand the scale of their proposal.

The Council has only received the first tranche from Mr. Lords solicitors, a final tranche is anticipated. The Council agreed without the knowledge of the value and timings of the final tranche it would be difficult to fairly apportion funds at this stage. It may be many months before this is known and they hope to fully promote the bequest across the Parish, fairly elicit interest and need for consideration of proposals and establish a governance process.

District and County Councillors present agreed that other funds were currently available to help such projects and asked that the Allotments Association explore this potential. Finally our Councillors would like to reiterate that we welcome suggestions from our parishioners to help us decide how to fairly allocate these funds, in memory of our very generous benefactor.

*Graham Sanderson*

Chairman., Lowick Parish Council.

## **Councillor News**

**Covid 19 Update**—As of 9th May, the number of Covid 19 cases in South Lakeland is 10 cases per 100,000 as opposed to 22 per 100,000 in England and 29/100,000 regionally, which has been skewed by the arrival of the Indian variant in the Bolton area. The infection rate is greatest in the 12 to 18 age group, followed by the 30 to 39 age group. So, there is cautious optimism and the need for controlled return to the “new normal”.

### **SLDC Update**

SLDC will be meeting up for its AGM next week, so apart from Covid management, there has been little happening.

The focus is currently on opening up the Economy and grants have been allocated for this purpose. This involves Marketing campaigns to promote trade and tourism, Covid marshalling, provision of seating and signage in outdoor spaces and the generally opening up of the high streets.

Businesses are still available for grants and change regularly as restrictions alter. SLDC web page is <https://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/business-and-trade/business-support-grants-coronavirus-covid-19/>

### **Visitor Management**

The National Park, in partnership with various agencies, like the Police, SLDC, CCC and National Trust have formed a Tactical Visitor Management Group and developed specific area visitor management plans. There is one specific to around Coniston and another around Hodge Close/Tilberthwaite. They have been reviewed by the local Parish Councils

These plans include regular Ranger and Police patrols, clearer signage, controlling the movement of Camper Vans on narrow roads and the provision of litter bins. To prevent parking congestion, the Park is encouraging Pop up Car Parks and likewise for temporary Camp sites to limit the amount of fly camping. The park has also recruited Welcome Hosts, for hotspots like Brown Howe and Monk Coniston to help visitors and promote the Countryside Code, linked in with a National campaign. The patrols will be dealing with infringements through education and enforcement. I have been out on a couple of these patrols over May Bank holiday and, although quieter than expected people were responsive. In short, the plans are working.

We are still seeing problems with littering and barbecues and this is a part of the message the park and SLDC are trying to get across to locals and visitors. Another problem we are seeing throughout the area is off-roading. This is illegal and a Police issue. The advice is not to confront, but to note registrations if possible, with time and place and direction.

We are asking people to inform the police on 101 or [101emails@cumbria.police.uk](mailto:101emails@cumbria.police.uk) if they see any of these issues occurring.

Farmers Arms, Lowick—The Farmers Arms has now been bought through Grizedale Arts and funded by a mixture of local buy in and grants. Refurbishment has started and there various events and work days planned. Over 200 people turned up at the rummage sale last weekend and volunteers turned up for gardening. It is nice to see activity there again. It will be even better, when the first pints are poured.

### **New District Councillor**

The Bye election for District Councillor in Broughton and Coniston ward on May 6th caused by the retirement of Anne Hall, was won by Heather Troughton, the Liberal

Democrat Candidate. 2538 votes were cast and Heather gained 1317 votes, or 52% of the total, with a majority of 340. Heather is born and bred in Coniston and is a teacher at Windermere as well as a Parish Councillor for Coniston.

Now the team is up to full strength, we will be discussing how we manage the District and communicate with the Parishes as effectively as possible.

Contact me on 077784 30926, or [ian.wharton@southlakeland.gov.uk](mailto:ian.wharton@southlakeland.gov.uk) if you have any queries/concerns. Stay Safe, Keep Healthy

*Ian, Heather and Tracy*

## **Gondola—1859, or 1980?**

In early 2019 I was a shipmaster and marine pilot looking for a job. 42 years of various work at sea had most recently involved me in piloting and loading very large tankers at offshore oilfields, work which over almost 15 years had taken me to Nigeria, Yemen, Qatar, Angola (a lot!) and Brazil, where the recent political changes had put me 'on the beach' again. Whimsical redundancies are not a rare occurrence in that world, and I was idly looking around for something new. I didn't find it, though-it found me. Quite by chance, I heard that the National Trust were looking for a new manager for Steam Yacht Gondola.

At first thought, I didn't know much about Gondola. That she was still steam powered, and the only one of all the Lakes steamers still to be so, I was fairly sure. I knew too that she had been at Coniston since she had been built; that she had served for an unusually long time, and that she had been wrecked for a considerable period. I was aware that there was some discussion about her having been the inspiration for Arthur Ransome's creation of Captain Flint's houseboat. I was also aware-peripherally- that she was back in service. Like many people, I was mildly surprised to find that she was owned and operated by the National Trust.

I agonised little before applying for the job. The idea of remaining 'at sea' but from the comfort of my own home, of returning to work in the Lakes (I grew up largely at Bowness and went to school at Heversham) and of becoming involved with a historical project were immensely attractive. As I have never really grown up, so was the idea of having a steam engine. Against that there was the worry that I might miss the challenges of handling large ships, which I love, and that the pay drop might be a bit steep; but it was a very attractive prospect which I would probably have gone for anyway. It was made a certainty, however, when a whisp of memory came back to me.

I have from my childhood a clear picture in my mind of Gondola, high-and-dry in a field. I had recently announced my intention of becoming a sea-captain, and my Grandad, ever the jester, took me to look over the wall at the forlorn hull lying canted over in the pasture below Water Park.

"How dost'a fancy being t'capt'n o' that, now?" He asked me. "Ah doan't think she's gan t'sail much furtha, eh?"

Funny world we live in, isn't it? The opportunity to contradict that half-century old prediction made me feel that fate was taking a hand. I didn't feel as if I was applying for a job so much as finishing a journey.

So, that's how I came to Coniston Water, and to Gondola... but what does it have to do with how old she is? Well, as a Windermere-raised chap, and a Westmerian, I

was not greatly familiar with Lancastrian Coniston and the Crake Valley as a youngster. Crossing the county boundary on the ferry actually meant something, and exploring the strange land 'ow'er t'leake' felt exotic enough even as far west as Sawrey. Three things only I knew of Coniston- the Old Man, Donald Campbell, and Gondola. Now, the Old Man I knew from it's being the Kanchenjunga of Swallows and Amazons; and Donald Campbell I knew because I had witnessed his fatal accident. I cannot, however, tell you how I knew about Gondola. But I did. That day when my jovial grandad took me to see her lying in the field and have his little joke, he didn't need to tell me what she was... I knew. And I think that is significant when we come to think of how old Gondola is.

When I applied for the job in 2019, I of course began gathering information about Coniston's iconic steamboat. And the overriding initial impression I formed can be summed up in one word- 'replica'. The overwhelming sense I got was that the boat was not rebuilt at Vickers in the late 1970s, but rather copied, that none of the real Gondola remains. Indeed, for some people, this seems to be an important point. The ship is 'only' forty years old. At first I accepted it myself, albeit with a heavy heart. Consoling myself with the idea that 40 years in itself is a remarkable achievement for a steel ship, I settled down to celebrate the quality of her rebuild at Barrow and the heritage she derives from the original vessel. I could cheerfully kick myself for that now. I thought I had learned long ago never to take history at face value.

A very large part of the vessel we see today was indeed rebuilt... and most expertly so... at Vickers in the late 1970s. It probably amounts to more than 90% of the fabric, but there is original material here too. My research on this is ongoing (and if anyone can add anything, even hearsay, to this then I would beg you to get in touch and tell us your story) and I'll be getting it checked, because I know that I am far from being a neutral judge, but at present I can say that there are excellent grounds to suppose that the gunwhale-bar, which connects the hull to the deck, is original, and many of the railings on board. Some of the forward saloon fittings are said to have been stored and re-used at the restoration, and some of the roof supports.

So, there is original material. But of course, a ship evolves throughout her life. In her first, and extraordinarily long, existence as a passenger vessel, Gondola was modified several times. By the time the London, Midland & Scottish Railway laid her up in 1936 she had already had probably 4 different boilers, her cabin had been reduced from 8 windows to 7, and the helm position had been seen wandering around her upperworks between the aft end of the cabin and the forward end of the engine-house. It begs the question, what is an original vessel? There is very little left of HMS Victory that dates from her laying down in 1759, her launching in 1785, or even from the time of Trafalgar, but no one suggests she is a replica. Victory is a heritage treasure, not because of her national significance but because she is a glass through which we may look back into a bygone day without the distortion caused by the interpretation of words or the fallibility of art; and no less so, I would suggest, is Gondola.

One reason that little of Gondola was saved was, in fact, her own excellence. She was designed (and very astutely so) by the Furness Railway Company to attract people onto the railways not only though the tours she provided but also as an attraction in herself. She was made elegant in order to appeal to the aesthetic tastes of the Victorians, but she was also given the latest technology. Her owners understood the fascination with the latest technology of the day. On the superb quality of her by now traditional Low Moor wrought iron frames, she was plated with a



new material- mild steel. She may actually be the first vessel ever to have been so built. Mild steel did its job... she was afloat from 1859 until her stranding in 1963... but, of course, eventually it, rusts more than wrought iron.

We should think also about the excellence of her design. The Gondola we see today is functionally unchanged from the time when (to put it in perspective) a middle-aged Queen Victoria was only newly bereaved, and the first shots of the American Civil War were bouncing off Fort Sumpter. The double-acting steam engine (not the original, sadly... if anyone has any ideas where that went, we'd love to hear them) that the National Trust acquired from a railway steam crane is almost identical in design to the original whose records are preserved at the Science Museum. Her boiler was copied from that of the locomotive Prince which was built in 1861, and so is of the technology at the time of Gondola's construction. The only difference Captain Anderson (our first Master and a stalwart who had earned his place searching for Franklin in the Arctic wastes) would see today is the cover on the steering position. He would be able to step aboard and take command exactly as he did in 1860. Today's visitors have an absolutely identical experience to those earliest of 'package holiday' tourists of one hundred and sixty years ago.

Let me also for a moment shine a light on what that quality 'delivered', to use a modern buzz-word: with the exception of 3 years during World War One, when coal was not available for leisure use, Gondola served for 76 consecutive years. Her season was typically 7-8 months a year. That is a very, very high rate of reliability. Today, with similar machinery and form, we can see how remarkable that is. If you go to a heritage railway, or steam rally, you will see trains which steam three times a week, and traction engines which steam once a month. Gondola remains reliably in service for around 200 days every year. In both 2019 and 2020, we lost 1 day to mechanical defects, both of which were repaired by the crew overnight. The engine is a tribute to its conceiving engineers, and also to the proud names which have helped to maintain it since 1980... amongst whom Dick Ransome, Roger Mallinson and Alex Sharpehouse must be recognised. I don't believe there is a steam-powered machine in the country, possibly anywhere, that delivers that level of reliability, and when you combine that with her length of service... 76 years followed, now, by 40 more... well, that's just extraordinary.

When Gondola moves through the water, you will hardly see a ripple behind her. Any sailor will tell you what this says for both her designers and her restorers... making waves burns fuel, it is inefficiency. The men of Liverpool in 1859 made one of the truest hulls that ever floated; and the men of Barrow copied it so faithfully that we have lost nothing today. Gondola still sails and manoeuvres as well as, if not better than, any other boat on the lake. She is an antique only in terms of the cost associated with running a steam engine, which requires an engineer and more fuel than a diesel; in all other respects, this vessel was built to C21st standards in the C19th. She'll still be doing it in the C22nd, too, if I have anything to do with it.

Readers may make up their own minds how old Gondola is, then, but I hope you will now see why, for me, she will never be a replica. Fabric alone is only one part, I would argue a small part, of the story. The Acropolis has been blown up, knocked down, used as a nineteenth-century B & Q for Athenian builders; it has now, apparently, put back up the wrong way; and it is perennially surrounded by cranes and scaffolding. It is still absolutely, definitively, the Acropolis; the place where we confront and wonder at the skill and vision of Ancient Athens. So too is Gondola a palpable example of the age of technological enlightenment and social emancipation.

She is doing what she was designed to do, on the lake for which she was designed to do it, and she is one of the most authentically original preserved vessels you could possibly see. She is not a cosseted artefact, taken out with white gloves and gently exhibited periodically, she is robustly in service supporting the local economy and providing one of the enduring images of the lake for visitors. Even as a houseboat and a wreck she was part of Coniston's image for locals and visitors alike. She is a tribute to those who conceived her, to those who built her, to those who restored her; and she has been a part of the Coniston community for every minute of that time. She never went away.

*Julian Blatchley*

## *From the Registers*



### **Funerals**

15th May    Sheila Jackson at St. Mary's, Penny Bridge

Interment of Ashes

2nd June    Anne Valerie Graham at St. Andrew's, Coniston

Interment of Ashes

3rd June    Roberta Anne Hodgkiss at St. Andrew's, Coniston

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**A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH** by Rev. David Gregg

### **JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> : THE QUEEN'S OFFICIAL BIRTHDAY**

Robin Woods, Bishop of Worcester, had previously been Dean of Windsor, and therefore a close confidant of the Queen. It was reported that he was sat one day in the General Synod tea-room with his senior chaplain and, at the next table, was a very new young synod-member showing off about all the famous people that he claimed to know. After a while the Bishop got a bit fed up with it, and said in a rather audible voice to his chaplain, "If there is one thing that the Queen and I can't stand, it's namedroppers!"

What's in a name? Well, in the biblical tradition, several things can be said. A name should signify some essential and distinctive essence of the person concerned ("Abraham" = the father of a multitude; "Moses" = the one drawn forth (from the waters of the Nile) etc. etc.). The name is given by one having authority over the person concerned. Initially this will be the parents (e.g. Zechariah naming John the Baptist), although if the person comes under a new sovereignty a new name may be given. So "Daniel" becomes "Belteshazzar", and "Simon" becomes "Peter". And, thirdly, the use of personal names implies a claim to superiority (as in Adam 'naming' the creatures over whom human-kind is given dominion) or at least equality (as in the incident of Jacob demanding to know the name of the One with Whom he was wrestling, after which his name was changed to "Israel".)

We all know that the Queen's name is Elizabeth, but we don't go bandying it about, and we wouldn't dream of calling her by it if we met! Even her own children don't do

that! How much more then with the NAME of Almighty God. We know what it means – “I AM WHO I AM” (Exod. 3:14). We even know the shortened form of it, “JAH” = “I AM”, which is incorporated into so many Hebrew names like Isaiah, Jeremiah etc. What we don’t know is the precise form of God’s full personal name, because the Hebrews regarded it as blasphemy to claim equality with/superiority over the LORD God by ever taking it on their lips. So they substituted the title “LORD” instead, just as we would refer to “the Queen” or address her as “Your Majesty” or “Ma’am”.

That is why our English versions always have LORD in capital letters in such places. (It was a practice endorsed by the Lord Jesus, although He caused much offence with His constant personal use of “Ego eimi” = “I am”!) This principle is so important that it is enshrined in the Ten Commandments (“You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain.”) and in the Lord’s Prayer (Hallowed be Your Name.”). It is significant that the New Testament Greek writings always have the word “Kyrios” (= Lord) every time Hebrew Scripture is quoted that contains the Sacred Name of Almighty God. And that is why the confession “Jesus is Lord” is at the heart of our Christian faith. You yourselves will enjoy great blessing if you continue this holy practice and constantly “bless the Name of the LORD” without using it!



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Please can all items, news, advertising enquiries and "What's On" events for this Magazine be emailed to the editor at **editor@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk** by **June 15th**, or phone **07505 048736**, or to Jean Johnson if that's more convenient : **enquiries@conistonholidays.co.uk** or tel. **015394 41319**. If you don't have access to a computer you can leave items at the Vicarage but please give plenty of time to convert them to electronic format.



### Calling all photographers!

If you have photos of local interest, perhaps not landscapes, that would be suitable for the cover of a future Magazine please email in as above. This month's cover photo is Swan in Silhouette by Becca Myers. We also have a gallery of contributed seasonal photos of our beautiful area on the website:

**www.conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk.**

Please continue to send your images of life and work in the parishes to **editor@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk**



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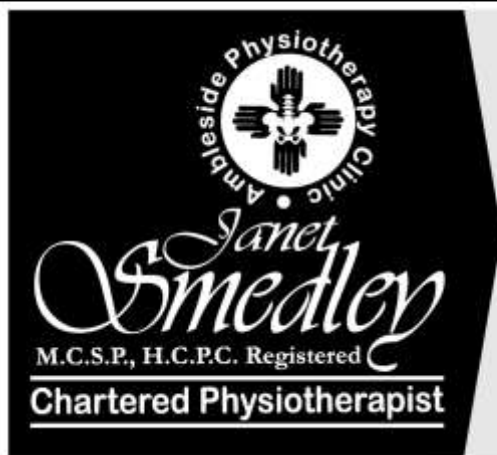
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Lake Road, Coniston  
Opening Tuesday to Saturday and Bank  
Holidays 4 til 8.30pm  
**Tel: 015394 41339**

### **Coniston Carers**

**Providing domiciliary care for age 18+**

in Coniston, Torver and Hawkshead  
Established over 25 years  
Contact Elaine or Brenda on  
**Tel: 015394 41868**

## THE FLOWER BASKET

Hawkshead Old Road, Coniston

Flowers for every occasion, delivered locally

Open 7.30am to 3.00pm

Wednesday / Sunday

7.30am to 12.00 noon

Contact Anne on

**015394 41609**



## Coniston and Torver Dairy



Hawkshead Old Road,  
Coniston

Local milk in bottles, eggs, butter, cream  
and yoghurt.

Locally grown potatoes and vegetables in  
season

We deliver locally on Tuesday, Thursday  
& Saturday

Opening hours: 7.30am—3.00pm

Wednesday & Sunday: 8.30am—12 noon

## Black Beck Farm, Bouth

### Caravans and Camping

Holiday Caravans      Shepherd's Hut

Glamping Lodges      Gypsy Bow Top

Camping area with electric hook-ups

Tents, touring caravans and motorhomes  
welcome

[www.blackbeckfarmholidaycaravans.co.uk](http://www.blackbeckfarmholidaycaravans.co.uk)

Tel: **01229 861284**

## The Ship Inn and Greenodd Brewery

A friendly pub with its own brewery, serving  
up to 5 hand pumps of our own real ales!

Open 5 - 11pm Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

2 - 11pm Saturday

2 - 10.30pm Sunday

Tel: **01229 861553 / 07782 655294**



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## Usher Construction



### Building and Joinery

Coniston, Cumbria

Office **015394 41209**

Mobile **07921 003840**

email: [usherconstruction@outlook.com](mailto:usherconstruction@outlook.com)

Visit: [www.usherconstruction.com](http://www.usherconstruction.com)

## Chris Harrison (Landscapes)

All types of stone walling, fencing, patios.

Grass cutting, hedge cutting

Pick-up and trailer hire

stone delivered from the quarry

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